## Give up Luna painting, lawmakers urge GSIS head

Story on PAGE A4

**WHAT'S INSIDE**

- **October inflation up but not alarming** BUSINESS /B1
- **Rumsfeld predicts overthrow of Iran gov't** WORLD /A12
- **US bombers nearer Iraq** WORLD /A12

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### Spirits or ghosts? Church draws line

**By Armand Nocum**

GIVE the ghosts, goblins and *manananggal* a rest.

This is not the sort of message one expects to be aired at this time when commerce dictates profits for scary stuff. But then

SPIRITS/ A16

DASAL ANG KAILANGAN NAMIN

# EU says Joma a terrorist

## *Declaration to force Reds to resume talks–Ople*

**By Norman Bordadora and Juliet L. Javellana**

**THE EUROPEAN Union has put Jose Ma. Sison and the New People's Army on its terrorist list—a move that could force the communists to resume the stalled peace talks with the Philippine government, Foreign Secretary Blas Ople announced yesterday.**

"This diplomatic initiative was to bring pressure on the communists to agree to go back to the negotiating table," Ople said at a news conference. He was referring to his earlier efforts, on the behest of President Macapagal-Arroyo, to persuade the EU to include the Communist Party of the Philippines and the NPA, its armed wing, in the EU list of terrorist organizations.

"(The communists) have no place to hide," Ople said, adding that they were now "proscribed internationally."

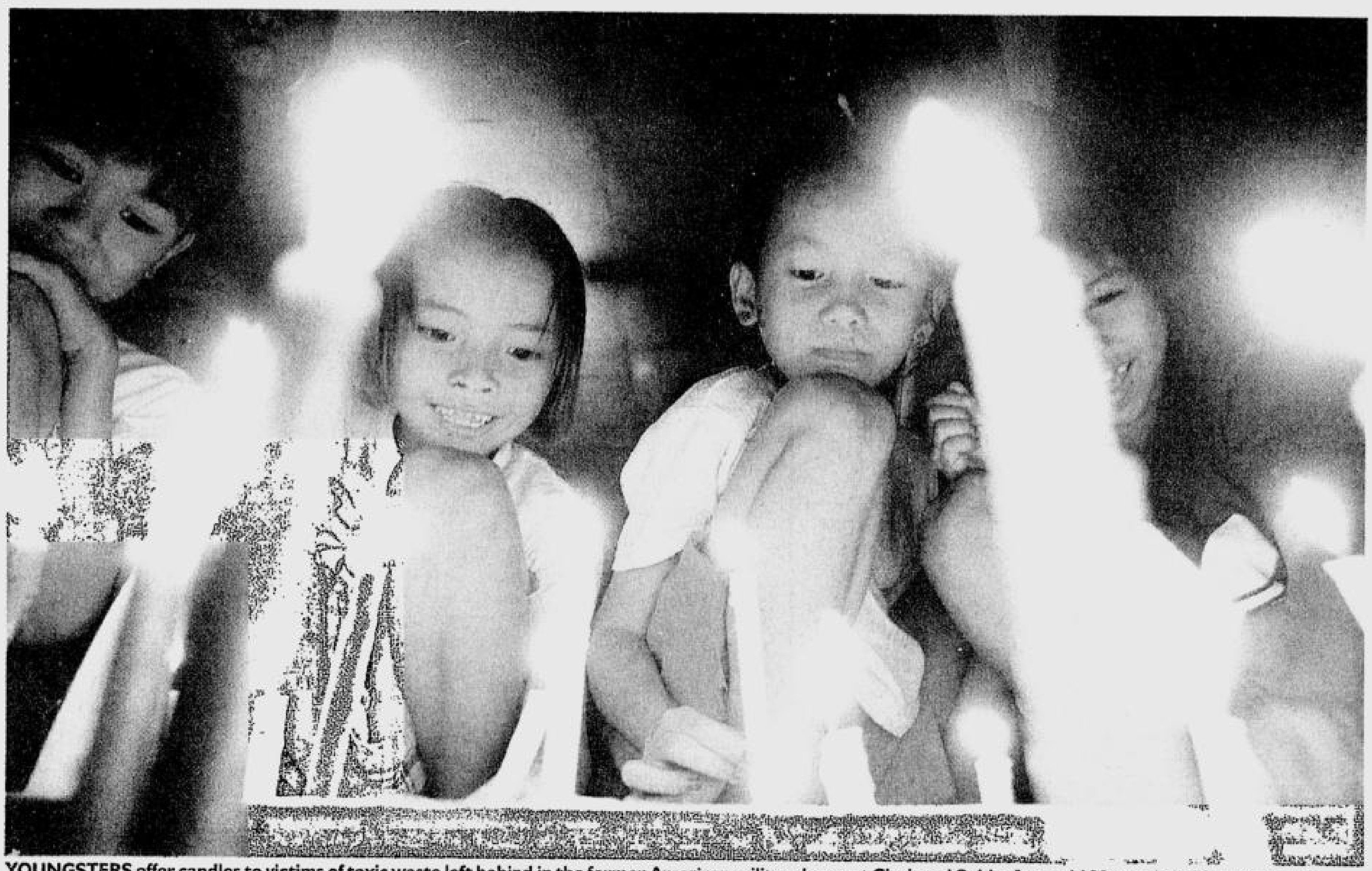
"By these listings, the assets of Mr. Sison and his terrorist organizations will be frozen, material support for them will be prohibited, and sanctuary or asylum made impossible," Ople said.

But Sison, founding chair of the CPP and chief political consultant of the National Democratic Front (NDF) with whom the Philippine government had been engaged in peace talks, disputed Ople's announcement.

He said that the European Council composed of the foreign ministers of its 15 member-countries failed to come up with its list of terrorist organizations at its meeting last week. He said the council was set to meet next on Nov. 15, but only for the turnover of the EU presidency from Denmark to Greece.

"So I don't know where Ople got his information," Sison said by phone from his home

EU/ A15



**YOUNGSTERS** offer candles to victims of toxic waste left behind in the former American military bases at Clark and Subic. Around 100 people held a prayer rally calling on the United States government to clean up their waste at the Dapdap resettlement site in Mabalacat, Pampanga.

DENNIS SABANGAN

## A day of grieving for victims of toxic waste

**By Tonette Orejas**
*PDI Central Luzon Desk*

MABALACAT, Pampanga—For victims of toxic waste poisoning in the former American bases, All Souls' Day is "still a day of grieving, of seeking justice."

In between sobs, Herondina Valencia told a crowd of some 150 still surviving victims and their family members: "Ours is a different case because our loved ones died due to the environmental injustice of the United States and little action from our own government."

The mourners, from communities around the former Subic and Clark military bases, gathered at dusk the other day. Before photographs of their dead relatives, in a grassy field illuminated by candles, they stood side by side and arm in arm.

They prayed, offered flowers and sang songs to implore eternal peace for their dearly departed.

Valencia, a 28-year-old mother, said toxic waste victims met slow deaths from drinking water contaminated with hazardous metals and substances and from working, living in or right next to polluted sites in the former US bases.

"It's not simply a day of remembering our dead," she said.

Valencia pasted photos of her late daughter, Crizel Jane, on a placard. The photos included images of Crizel from the time she was a toddler up to when she was 6 years old, when she was bald, pale and dying of leukemia.

A DAY/ A15

## Asian vote buoys RP bid for seat in Security Council

**By Norman Bordadora**

IS it in the bag? A year before elections to choose new members of the powerful United Nations Security Council, the Philippines may have virtually clinched one of the seats at stake.

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said yesterday that he had received word from Ambassador to the United Nations Alfonso Yuchengco that the Asian caucus in the UN General Assembly reached a consensus endorsing the country's bid for a non-permanent seat.

"In the absence of any other announced candidacy from Asia, the Asian consensus means that the Philippines may have clinched the Security Council seat," Ople told reporters.

Under the UN Charter, the Security Council is responsible for international peace and security. It is the only UN organ whose decisions all member-states are obliged to follow. All other UN agencies have only recommendatory powers with member-states.

The council has five permanent members, the so-called Great Powers: China, France, Britain, Russia and the United States. It also has 10 seats for non-permanent members, who are elected to two-year terms.

Ople said the Philippines would be occupying the seat that Syria will vacate in December 2003.

The elections for the council's non-permanent seats would be sometime in October 2003, Ople said.

"Capturing a non-permanent seat in the 15-nation UN Security Council validates the rising political stature of the Philippines in the international community under President

ASIAN/ A16

**A DAY OF REMEMBERING IN A SEASON OF TERROR**

## Until end, Marine thinking of others

DAPITAN CITY—The loved ones of the Marine officer killed in the Oct. 20 bomb blast at Fort Pilar in Zamboanga City are finding comfort in memories of him as a dutiful son, a loving brother and a thoughtful boyfriend.

Constantino Daguinotas said his only consolation was that his 29-year-old son, the late Cpl. Allan Daguinotas, died shielding worshipers at the shrine of Our Lady of Pilar. "Until the end he was still thinking of others. Perhaps he did not die in vain," the father said.

Allan, a former choir boy, joined the Philippine Marines in 1997. As a member of the 5th Marine Landing Battalion Team, he saw action on the Narciso Ramos Highway in Maguindanao during the all-out war declared in 2000 by then President Joseph Estrada against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

He also took part in this year's military operations to rescue the Abu Sayyaf hostages—American missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham and Filipino nurse Edibora Yap—in the hinterlands of Sibuco, Sirawai and Siocon towns in Zamboanga del Norte.

Allan's mother Anecita said she did not want her son to join the military "because it's a risky job." But Allan's uncle Rex Balancar, also a Marine, prevailed, she said.

The father expressed the belief that it was Allan's determination to help his parents and siblings that drove him to join the military.

"He was still a boy when he left us and the choir of our chapel," the mother said.

The parents last saw and talked with their son in August,

UNTIL/ A16

**MARINE Cpl. Allan Daguinotas: He died shielding Fort Pilar Shrine devotees.**

## Hope flickers in candlelight for the missing

**By Ryan D. Rosauro**
*PDI Mindanao Bureau*

OZAMIZ CITY—On All Souls' Day tomorrow, Ramil Cubol will be lighting a candle in the altar of his home as he has done for many years now. Again, he will be tormented by thoughts of his father's unknown fate.

The last time Ramil saw his father Tiburcio was in 1984 when he was 8 years old in Iligan City. Now 26 and living in Pagadian City with a wife and daughter, Ramil wonders whether his father is still alive or already dead.

At midnight of May 19, 1984, or more than 18 years ago, soldiers picked up Tiburcio, a *mananggiti* (coconut wine gatherer), from their house for questioning. He had been suspected of being a cadre of the communist New People's Army (NPA) and he has not returned since.

"That is why the observance (of All Souls'

HOPE/ A15

## Promise of a new job ended with a blast

**By Alcuin Papa**

FERNANDO Bon's first day at work was also his last day on earth.

After a long shift as a maintenance man at Tyme Products Inc., in San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City, Fernando, 19, boarded a Golden Hi-Way Transit bus on his way home to Valenzuela City on Friday, Oct. 18.

He never made it.

At around 10:10 p.m., the bus exploded in Balintawak on its way to the Malinta exit. Fernando became one more statistic in the ongoing terror wars.

For his family, however, Fernando's death was anything but a number.

When the INQUIRER visited the Bon house in Valenzuela last week, the pall of gloom was thick. His brother Frederick, 21, the eldest in the family and also an employee at Tyme, was deep in thought about the loss of his brother and the future of his family.

"He had so many plans and so many dreams for our future. He wanted to earn enough because our father just passed away. He told my mother that he was thinking of going abroad if only to earn more," Frederick said in Filipino.

Fernando was born to a life of hardship. He was the second of five children of the late Ponciano,

PROMISE A15

**FERNANDO Bon: He had so many plans and dreams.**

**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/11/01/02

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Cloudy with Rains | Iloilo/Bacolod | Partly Cloudy |
| Baguio | Cloudy with Rains | Roxas | Partly Cloudy |
| Tuguegarao | Cloudy with Rains | Cebu | Cloudy with Rains |
| Laoag | Cloudy with Rains | Tacloban | Partly Cloudy |
| Clark Zone | Cloudy with Rains | Gen. Santos | Partly Cloudy |
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| Legazpi | Cloudy with Rains | Cagayan de Oro | Cloudy with Rains |
| Calapan | Partly Cloudy | Davao | Cloudy with Rains |

## BENWAREN SLAY AFTERMATH

# Mayors leave Abra after assassination

**By Frank Cimatu, Leoncio Balbin Jr. and Desiree Caluza**
*PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

BANGUED, Abra—An Abra town mayor said yesterday several mayors in the province left for Hong Kong immediately after the murder of Tineg Mayor Clarence Benwaren on Tuesday, to distance themselves from the assassination.

The mayor, who asked not to be named, said his colleagues left for Hong Kong after they heard Benwaren had been shot in a Calauan, Laguna church where he stood as sponsor at a wedding. Benwaren was felled by one bullet to the head fired by an assassin who was promptly killed by responding policemen.

The Abra mayors joined another group of provincial mayors who had left for Hong Kong last week, before Benwaren's assassination, to join Abra Gov. Vicente Valera and his wife, Bangued Mayor Ma. Zita Valera, in a gathering of Abreños based in the former Crown Colony.

### Somebody powerful

The INQUIRER source, who attended Benwaren's wake in Baguio City on Wednesday, said, "They will likely stay there until Benwaren is buried."

Fewer than 10 of the province's 27 mayors remained in Abra and these were the close friends of Benwaren, the source said.

"We believe that (the mastermind of Benwaren's murder) could not have done it by himself. There was somebody more powerful behind the killing," the mayor said.

He said many of the mayors who left for Hong Kong "have an inkling of who masterminded the killing." He would not elaborate.

On Wednesday, former Tineg mayor Pedro Benwaren, father of the slain mayor, accused Vice Mayor Edwin Crisologo of involvement in his son's killing.

Crisologo, formally an ally of Benwaren, denied the accusation.

### Anticipated

Pedro Benwaren admitted the family had anticipated the assassination of his son, who had been receiving death threats regularly. He said he had repeatedly warned Clarence to be careful.

"I always advised my son to take precautions. The assassination was well planned. (The assassins) tailed him," Pedro Benwaren told the INQUIRER.

He said that aside from a grenade-throwing incident at their house in Bangued early this year, his son had consistently been receiving death threats, mostly through letters.

Pedro said the threats started after the 2001 elections when Benwaren and Crisologo parted ways. Crisologo joined Governor Valera's party after the split.

The Benwaren and Crisologo families had long been political enemies.

But the two clans united during the 1998 elections when Benwaren teamed up with Crisologo.

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# Holiday terror threat not yet over, cops warn

**By TJ Burgonio and Martin Marfil**

POLICE authorities yesterday advised the public to remain vigilant, saying they have monitored plots by the Abu Sayyaf and communist rebels to sow terror during the All Saints' Day holiday.

Deputy Director General Virtus Gil, chief of the PNP Directorial Staff, said the Abu Sayyaf was planning to blow up two more malls, citing results of the interrogation of five alleged members of the terrorist group who were arrested in Zamboanga City last week.

"There's a threat from the Abu Sayyaf, but we don't know where they plan to strike next," he said.

Gil, citing intelligence reports, also said New People's Army rebels were planning to attack police stations and government installations in the coming days.

"They've been doing that," he said. "Because of these threats, we're asking the policemen, especially those going to the cemeteries, to be vigilant. Terrorists don't care how many people they kill."

The military, meanwhile, has mobilized medical teams, crowd control units and its anti-coup force to augment its "standby forces" in Metro Manila during the long weekend.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines public information office said all AFP units have been placed on "red alert" since yesterday.

"Essentially, Task Force Libra is tasked to secure the seat of government but we deemed it appropriate to put that unit on alert as a standby force to respond to any terrorist activity in Metro Manila, just in case," AFP spokesperson Lt. Col. Danilo Servando said.

"This has nothing to do with any destabilization move . . . This is part of our preparations for this four-day holiday only," Servando said.

Earlier, the military announced that it had placed on alert its Anti-Crime Task Force (Actaf), the Marines and the Air Force's Special Operations Wing. Yesterday, AFP chief Gen. Benjamin Defensor expanded this and ordered the deployment of a Marine battalion and Task Force Libra to secure the metropolis.

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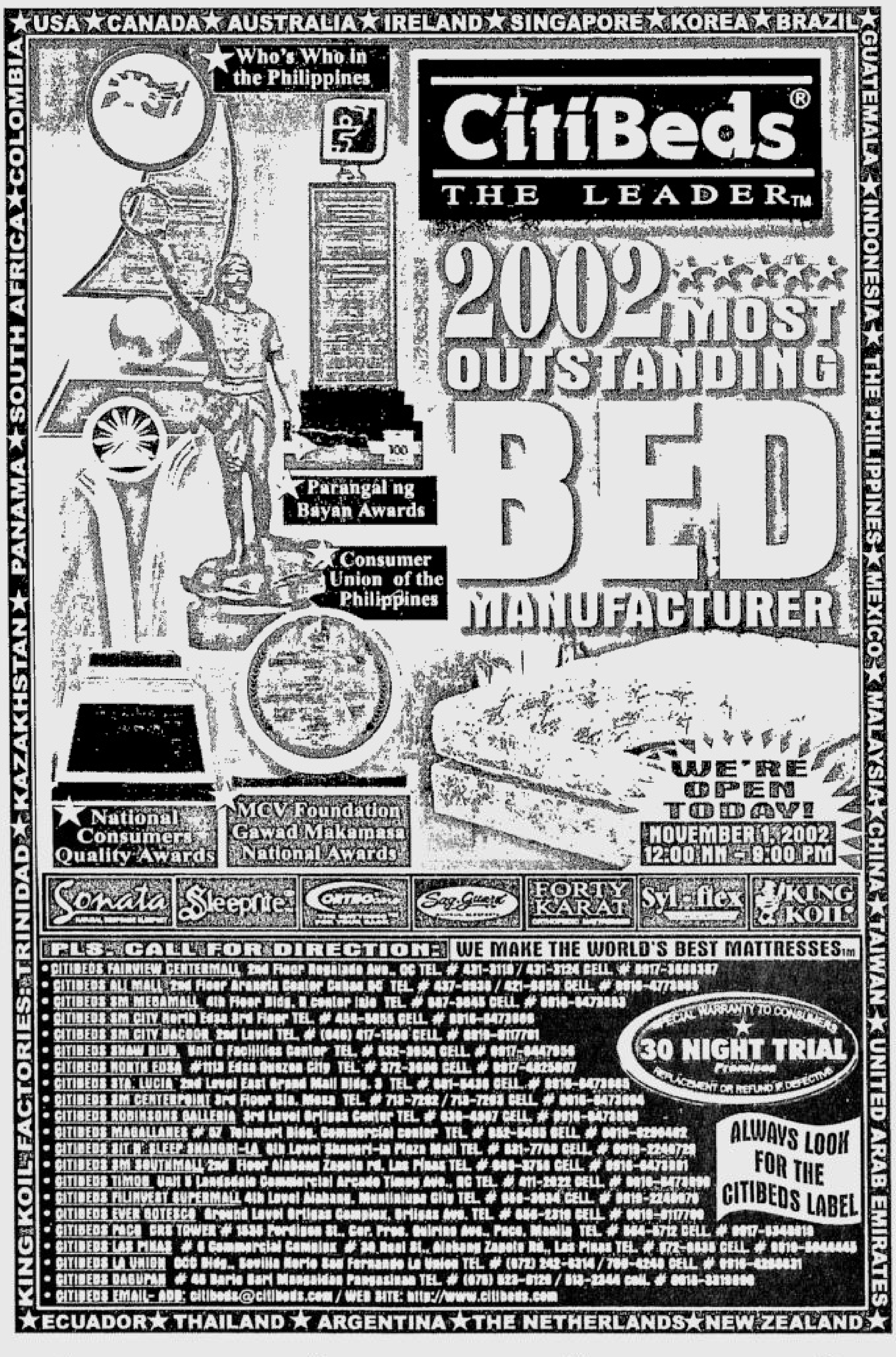
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# It'll be a quick landing and takeoff for Gloria

WITH BARELY time to touch base after she returns tomorrow from her nine-day trip to Mexico and the US, President Macapagal-Arroyo will be off on Sunday for a five-day visit to Cambodia and Vietnam.

She leaves for Phnom Penh for the 8th Asean Leaders Summit from Nov. 3 to 5. From Phnom Penh, she will fly to Hanoi for an overnight stay. She canceled her visit to Ho Chi Minh City and is expected back on Nov. 7. *Dona Z. Pazzibugan*

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# Gloria comes away with $30-M package

By Leah Makabenta

SAN FRANCISCO—President Macapagal-Arroyo starts for home tomorrow after a six-day swing through the United States following the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meetings in Mexico with the "restoration and more" of the long-awaited $30 million military assistance package from the US.

The President told reporters yesterday the Bush administration had found a way to source the $30 million in military assistance for the Philippines inserted in the US budget that President George W. Bush had vetoed.

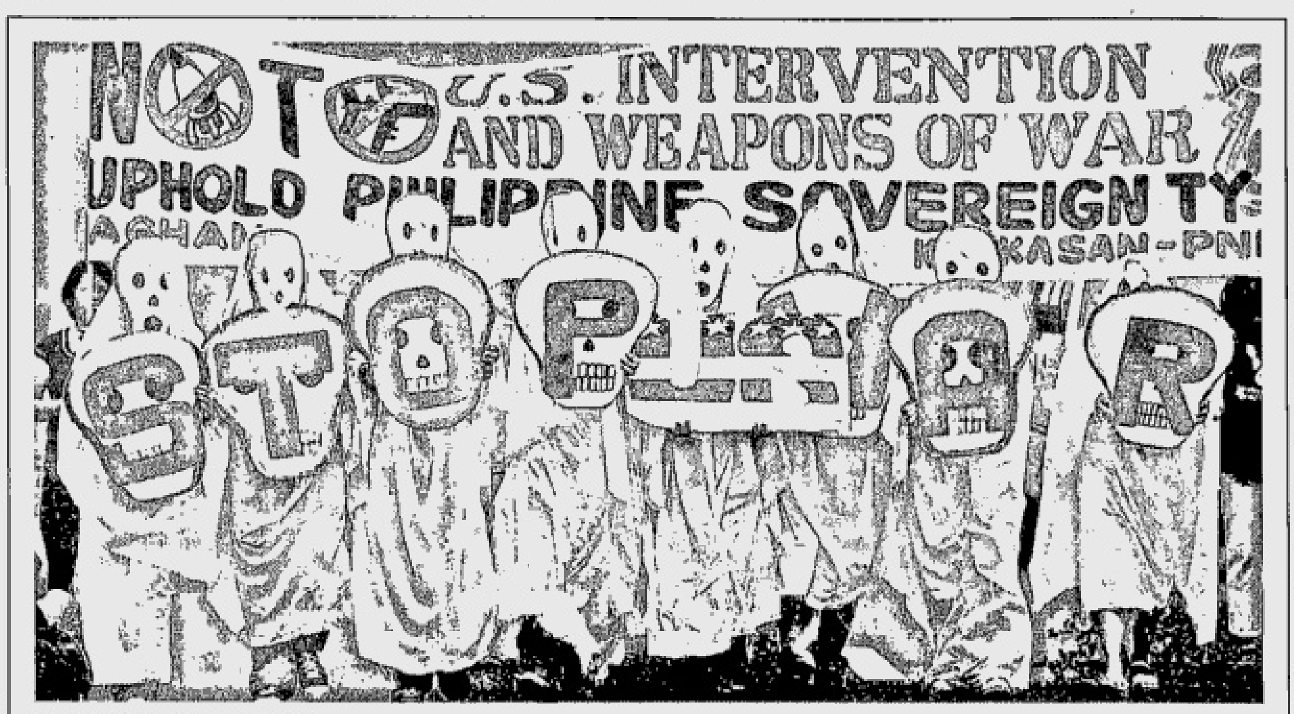
"Because of the disgust shown by the Filipino public over the veto, and because the US respects us as its partner in the war against terrorism," Washington has found a way to make up for it, Ms Macapagal said.

She said the US would provide $15 million in an economic support fund, and has found a source in its budget for the $30 million to be restored to the Philippines.

In addition, Hawaii Sen. Daniel Inouye, who had inserted the original appropriation for the Philippines, intends to file another bill giving $30 million to the Philippines in the 2003 budget.

"This means we will be getting even more," Ms Macapagal said.

Explaining the context of the veto, the President said the $30 million was part of a $5 billion supplemental budget that the US Congress was studying for the US war against terrorism.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**STILL 'NO' TO WAR**
Militant and environmental groups rallied in front of the United States Embassy on Roxas Boulevard in Manila yesterday to protest US military action against Iraq.
ERIK ARAZAS

# Give up Luna painting or pay for it, solons tell GSIS head

By Juliet L. Javellana

GIVE it up.

Marinduque Rep. Edmund Reyes yesterday asked the Government Service Insurance System to turn over Juan Luna's "Parisian Life" to the National Museum, the repository of the country's heritage.

"The mandate of the GSIS is to take care of its members' contributions," said Reyes, chair of the House committee on basic education. He sits on the museum's board as an ex-oficio member.

On the other hand, Davao City Rep. Prospero Nograles wants GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia to reimburse the money used to buy the painting.

Nograles said the purchase of the Luna was an "extreme case of bad judgment" on Garcia's part in the face of widespread poverty and the growing budget deficit.

He said Garcia's explanation the money had come from the GSIS property insurance business does not justify the huge expenditure.

"Can the people eat the Luna painting?" he asked.

## Cultural repository

Reyes noted the criticism against the GSIS acquisition of the painting for P46 million from Christie's auction house in Hong Kong. He said the GSIS should give the painting to the National Museum "because it is the central repository of our cultural heritage, it is where all important works of art should remain. That is why it is called the National Museum."

But Garcia said Reyes' call was "a typical Filipino trait."

"*Kami ang nagluto, kami ang nagsaing, iba ang gustong kumain* (Loosely translated: We were the ones who worked for it but others now want to benefit from it)," he said.

Garcia stressed that the painting is now a property of the GSIS.

"I think (critics) should realize that the funds of the GSIS are not government funds so this (painting) is not for the government to dispose of," Garcia said when asked to comment on Reyes' suggestion.

Garcia said the GSIS is a separate corporation with its own charter and its budget is not even appropriated by Congress but by the GSIS board.

## Confused

Garcia said critics of the GSIS were confused about the source of the money that was used to buy the painting. He said it was taken from the profit of the GSIS property insurance business, not from the contribution of its members.

Garcia said he will not give up the painting without a fight.

"Maybe (we will give it up) if they buy it from us at the right price," he said, hinting that the "right price" would be the price GSIS paid for its acquisition.

"They cannot get it from us for free," he said.

He lamented that the GSIS was getting flak from critics and remarked that "everybody is a genius on hindsight."

# 4 NPAs killed in Cagayan; other rebel attacks reported

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Four suspected members of the New People's Army were killed while an Army soldier was wounded in an encounter in Baggao town, Cagayan, on Wednesday morning, Army reports said.

Lt. Col. Aguedo Vilches, commander of the Army's 41st Infantry Battalion, said the soldiers who were on patrol clashed with at least 30 armed rebels in Barangay Canagatan, Baggao.

Vilches said the four rebels were killed in the hour-long firefight but their bodies were carried off by their companions as they fled.

The soldiers recovered a hand grenade at the encounter site.

In Zambales, heavily armed suspected NPA rebels attacked an Army detachment in Palauig town Tuesday night, a report reaching Camp Olivas in Pampanga said.

Five NPA rebels, led by Merlito Dizon, strafed the Army's 24th Infantry Battalion detachment in Barangay Bulawen, Palauig at 8:45 p.m., the report said.

The rebels fled after military reinforcements arrived. No one was reported hurt in that clash. *Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

# Illegal loggers use 40-ft container vans to ship their logs

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE COUNTRY'S shipping lines are being unwittingly used by syndicates to transport illegal logs and lumber, Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez said yesterday.

Alvarez said forest products are loaded into 40-foot container vans and put on board commercial shipping vessels as ordinary goods. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, he said, has tracked the route of these illegal loggers, most of whom operate in Mindanao, and has sought the assistance of the maritime industry in putting a stop to the practice.

Alvarez said the "door-to-door" loading and delivery method is easier to misdeclare and harder to detect than the old system where illegally cut logs were loaded onto 10- and 16-wheel trucks.

The modus operandi was discovered recently after the DENR intercepted huge shipments of lumber concealed in at least 10 40-foot container vans—eight from Pollooc and Kapinpinlan in Cotabato City and two from Davao City.

The undocumented forest products were transported separately through WG&A's Superferry and Sulpicio Lines in September and October.

The first eight container vans, shipped to the North Harbor by Suraida Mini-Sawmill and Lumber, yielded forest products valued at P2.5 million. The shipment was covered by documents that had allegedly been tampered with. The container vans were brought to its consignées Soo Chiong Trading Corp. and Bayview Marketing, both in Valenzuela City, and Goodwill Lumber in Baliwag, Bulacan.

## THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, November 1, 2002
All Saints Day

**1st Reading:** Rev 7:2-4, 9-14
**2nd Reading:** 1 Jn 3:1-3
**Gospel:** Mt 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain. He sat down and his disciples gathered around him. Then he spoke and began to teach them:

Fortunate are those who have the spirit of the poor, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Fortunate are those who mourn, they shall be comforted.

Fortunate are the gentle, they shall possess the land.

Fortunate are those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be satisfied.

Fortunate are the merciful, for they shall find mercy.

Fortunate are those with a pure heart, for they shall see God.

Fortunate are those who work for peace, they shall be called children of God.

Fortunate are those who are persecuted for the cause of justice, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Fortunate are you, when people insult you and persecute you and speak all kinds of evil against you because you are my followers. Be glad and joyful, for a great reward is kept for you in God. This is how this people persecuted the prophets who lived before you.

**Commentary**

*One of the saints we celebrate today is a little old lady who lived in the house at the corner of my street. And my grandfather. And many more whose names we don't even know. They have passed through this world making almost no noise, yet serving their brothers and sisters. They are the most important bricks in the construction of the Heavenly Kingdom. They are saints because they opened their hearts and received God's grace and love, and they knew how to share them with others. Community, friendship, family, God's Kingdom, all formed around them. Thanks to them, faith has reached us and is alive in our history.*

*Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)*

## SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

JUDICIAL ETHICS—Duty of a process server—The duty of a process server is vital to the machinery of the justice system. His primary duty is "to serve court notices" which precisely requires utmost care on his part by seeing to it that all notices assigned to him are duly served upon the parties. Thus, respondent should have carefully examined each of the "voluminous notices" assigned to him, scanning and reading every page to ensure that every notice to the party concerned will be served properly. Here, respondent failed to exercise that degree of diligence required by his office. The conduct required of court personnel, from the presiding judge to the lowliest clerk, must always be beyond reproach and circumscribed with heavy burden of responsibility. In government service, both the highest and lowest positions are impressed with public interest and are, by solemn mandate of the Constitution, public trusts. Faithful adherence to this public trust character of a public office is strictly demanded from those involved in the administration of justice because their task is a sacred one. Furthermore, this Court condemns and would never countenance any conduct, act or omission on the part of those involved in the administration of justice which would violate the norm of public accountability and would diminish or even just tend to diminish the faith of the people in the judiciary. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Sandoval-Gutierrez, Third Division, Dajao v. Lluch, A. M. OCA No. P-02-1570, April 3, 2002]

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# Traffic 'near normal' across San Juanico

TACLOBAN CITY—Traffic has returned to near normal on historic San Juanico Bridge.

The Department of Public Works and Highways on Wednesday afternoon declared the bridge "safe" for vehicles to traverse, albeit slowly and using only one lane.

This after one of the road slabs of the bridge "settled" or sank lower than adjoining slabs due to salt water corrosion and age.

The 2.2-km span, the longest of its kind in Southeast Asia and which connects the provinces of Samar and Leyte, has been undergoing extensive rehabilitation since January.

Jimmy Chan, project engineer for the P700-million rehabilitation, said the bridge was opened to the public at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, or more than six hours after the slab gave way earlier at 10:30 a.m.

"Traffic flow is back to normal," Chan said.

He said, however, that vehicles weighing more than 20 tons were not allowed across the bridge on which he advised motorists to drive slowly.

The bridge was constructed during the Marcos regime. It was opened to the public on July 2, 1973, on the 45th birthday of former first lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos who is from Leyte.

*Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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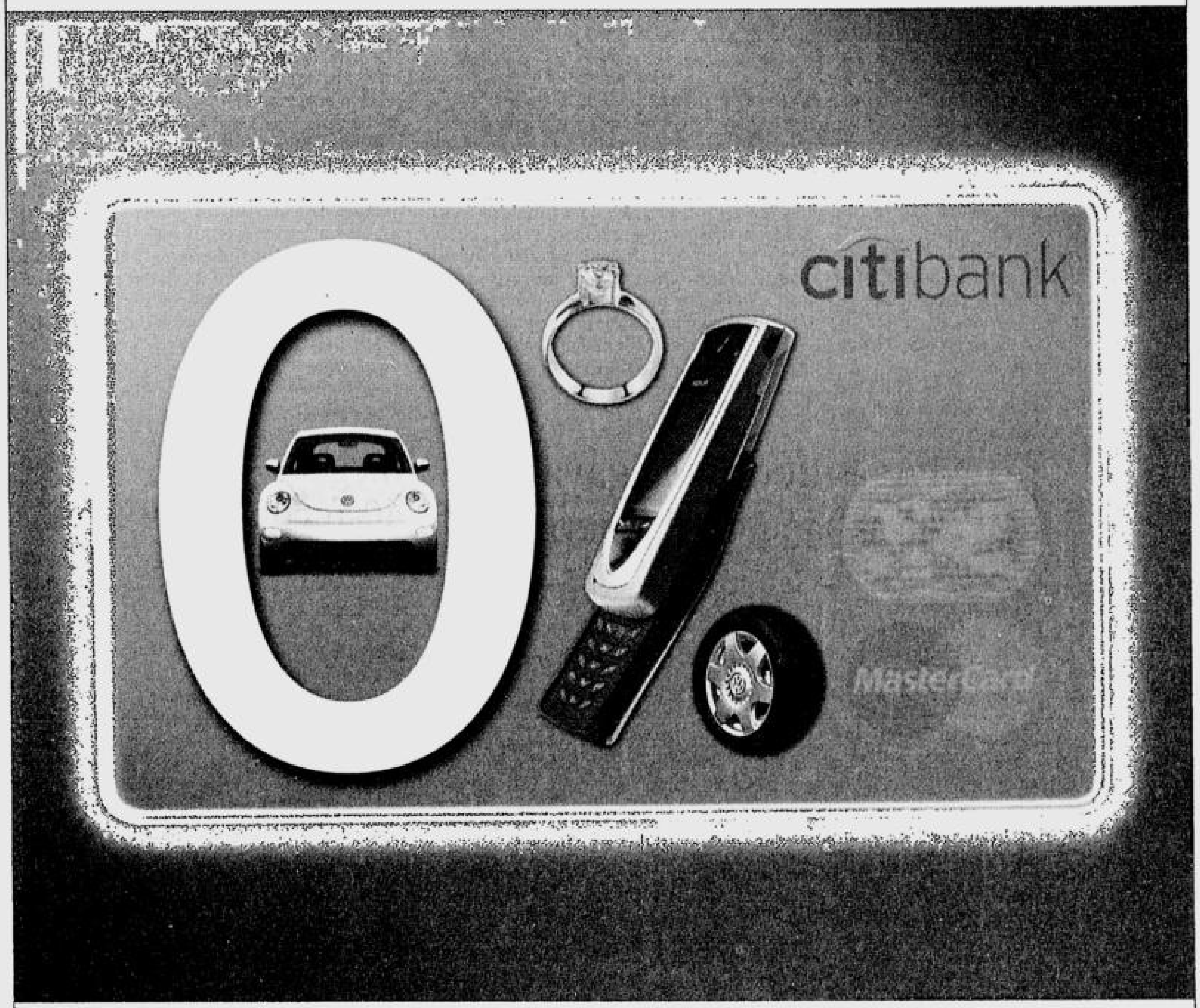

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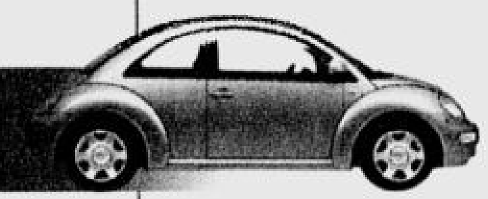

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# OPINION

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**EDITORIALS**

## Spare them a thought

IF we recall right, the feast of the dead is All Souls' Day, which falls on Nov. 2, and not All Saints' Day, which falls the day before. But, well, we've gotten used to visiting the cemeteries on Nov. 1 there's no sense being a stickler for formality. Tradition weighs more heavily than law, secular or canon. And in any case, this is something that's been done by popular consent rather than bureaucratic fiat. We still remember, with much amusement, the government's (happily) short-lived campaign to move holidays that fell in the middle of the week to Mondays or Fridays to give people a three-day weekend.

It's a nice tradition, flocking to the resting places of the dear departed and taking time to remember them—though there have been more and more complaints over the years about the visitors taking more time to play *pusoy* and drink beer than to remember the dead. We don't know that the dead would mind very greatly, even if the living does. But amid your reflection, or recollection, or disguised revelry, you may want to spare a thought not just to your relatives and friends but to some people who went this year but not after making this world a little brighter than they found it.

These are the artists, all of whom have touched our lives deeply. This year has been particularly cruel to them, taking them away from us in plentiful numbers.

## Prayers too

FIRST to go this year, in the deepest darkness of Lent, were Lucio San Pedro and Levi Celerio, both national artists. San Pedro composed both classical and popular music, the latter including a host of *kundiman*. The most popular of them is a lullaby sung now in many households—courtesy of the OPM artists who popularized it—entitled "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan." It was Celerio, master of the lyrical word, who wrote its lyrics. One of their rare collaborations, and but one of the hundreds of songs Celerio wrote in his lifetime.

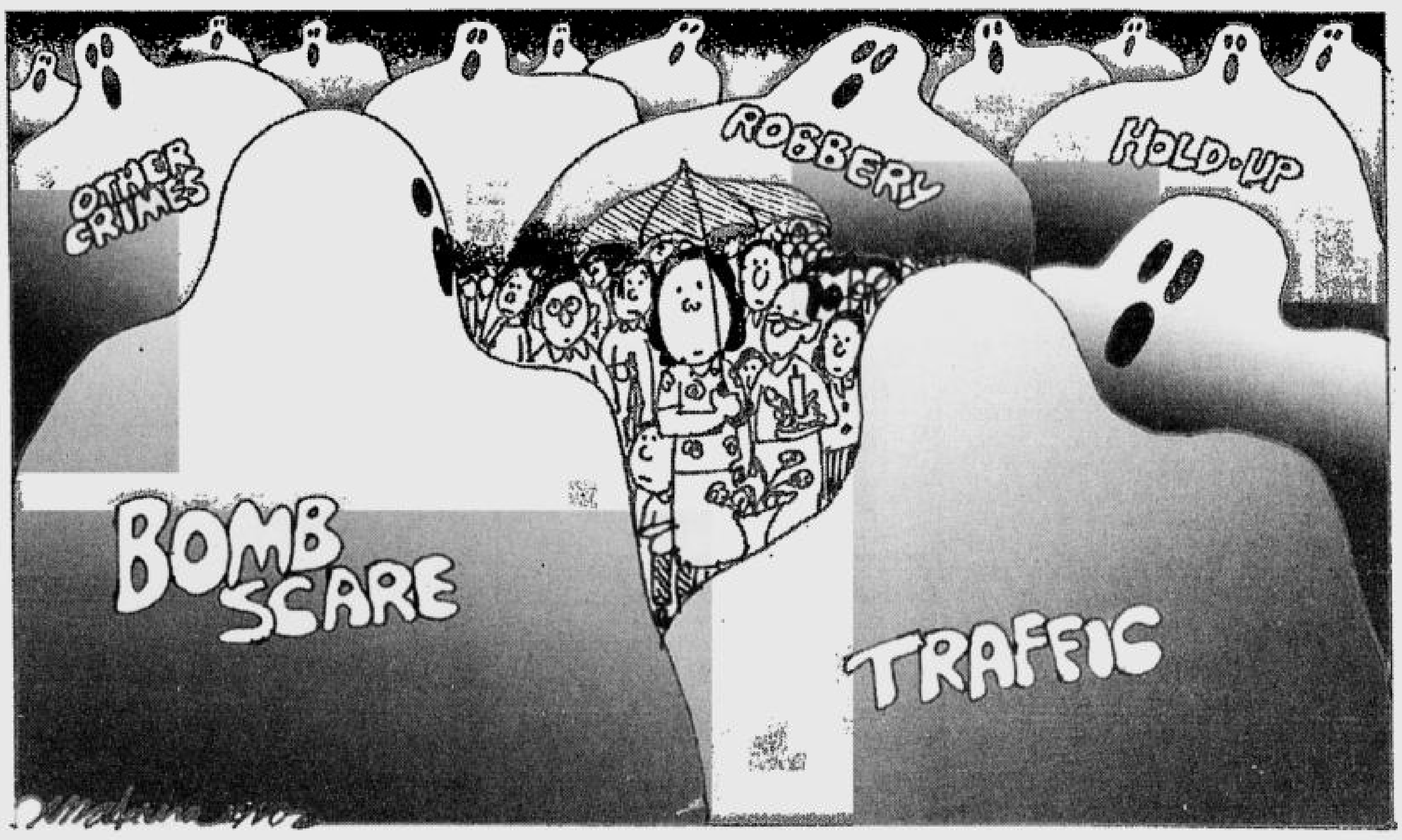
Two others followed soon after. They were Doreen Fernandez and Larry Alcala, two of the nicest people you could hope to meet. Fernandez taught literature at the Ateneo de Manila, but was better known as this newspaper's food critic. She delighted readers not just by her tasteful appreciation of this country's repasts but her thoughtful insights into this country's past, and present. Alcala was the cartoonist who brought to God's good earth Kalabog en Bosyo and Siopawman, and had readers scouring the length and breadth of his Slice of Life cartoon for his famous profile. As famous at least in these parts as that of Alfred Hitchcock himself. He passed away as quietly and gently as he lived, treading very softly on death as on life.

Next came Franz Arcellana, national artist for literature, who taught several generations to write, quite apart from writing a great deal himself. It was a tossup which one he did better, teach or write. His students, whose ranks include some of the best writers in the country today, would probably swear it was the first; the national artist judges would probably swear it was the second. And they would both be right.

Close on his heels came another teacher of literature, Nieves Epistola. This one was all the more tragic for being sudden. Epistola was not known to be suffering from any disease. She has been the least written about, but her contributions to making this world a brighter place are no less formidable. Her wake, like that of Arcellana, drew in the best and brightest in this country—or those among them who have not abandoned it for other shores—from different generations, all of whom lavished her the paeans she richly deserved. She wasn't just well thought of, she was loved. Who says nice people finish last?

And finally, just a couple of weeks ago, there was Nonoy Marcelo, beloved observer, interpreter and raconteur of the generation who now run government and business. If only they learned something from him, this country would be a better place to live in. Marcelo it was who bequeathed to this earth Tisoy and Ikabod Bubwit, both refractions of the tragicomic life in these parts. Quite apart from the voluminous editorial cartoons he did for various publications, notable for their gentle wit and spaced-out humor. It was a tossup too as to which he did better, draw cartoons or do an imitation of a rock star on stage.

Did we say spare a thought for these artists and our loved ones who have passed away? A prayer or two is even better.



## Cemeteries may be targets for terrorists today

### AS I SEE IT

*Neal H. Cruz*

THIS is not to scare you but to warn you to be more careful: Do you know that for terrorists who want to make an impact, the crowded cemeteries today are the best places to explode bombs? The dense crowds there will ensure that there will be many casualties. Also because of the crowds, it would be easy for them to escape. What's more, the fences of the cemeteries are porous. It is so easy for terrorists to get in with bags and packages loaded with bombs. There can never be enough policemen at the gates to check each and every bag. It is an impossible task. A determined bomber will certainly get through.

I am not saying that bombs will surely explode or that there is even a plot to bomb cemeteries. What I am saying is that if they are determined to do it, they can do it. And the odds are against our law enforcement agencies being able to stop them.

I am saying that you should be careful and alert. Be on the lookout for suspicious-looking, abandoned bags and packages. If you see one, report it immediately to the nearest policeman. It may not be a bomb, but merely snacks. Never mind. Don't be embarrassed. Be thankful that it is not a bomb. Better safe than sorry.

When chatting with relatives and friends beside your family members' tombs, sit with your back to a concrete tomb so that if there is an explosion, you would be shielded from the power of the blast. If an explosion happens, don't panic and run away. There may be another one. Instead take cover or lie flat on the ground. Afterwards, help those who are injured.

I know that this will not deter millions from going to the cemeteries. All Saints' Day is one great holiday for Filipinos, rivaling Christmas. Often, it is the only time of the year that some relatives get to see one another. What a place for family reunions—the resting place of the dead. So, millions will still troop to the cemeteries, bomb or no bomb.

But when you do go, don't leave your homes unattended. Many burglars strike on All Saints' Day, knowing that many homes would be unguarded. In some areas, *pangangaluluwa* is a common practice, when men and women, representing lost souls, serenade residents while other members of the group go to the chicken coops to steal chickens and eggs. All in fun, of course, which is accepted by the victims as a part of tradition. But sometimes, when there is nobody in the house, the serenaders steal not only eggs and chicken but all the valuables they can get from the house. That's not in fun anymore. That is already a crime. And you must guard against that.

The most sensible thing to do today, really, is to stay home. You avoid the crowds and the traffic in the cemeteries, and the traffic jams on the highways to the provinces. Pay your respects to your dear departed tomorrow or the day after tomorrow, when the crowds and traffic have thinned. And when there are not enough live people in the cemeteries anymore to make a bombing worthwhile for terrorists.

Here's another piece of advice: Avoid Megamall, Robinson's, Glorietta, Shangri-la and Fiesta Mall today. No, not because of bombs, but because they are closed.

* * *

*Humihirit pa si* Rodolfo Tuazon, director *ng* Public Estates Authority. He faxed a letter reacting to my column last Oct. 29 urging all the PEA directors to make President Macapagal-Arroyo happy by obeying her "request" for them to resign. Tuazon said he will resign only "after the Ombudsman has made its decision on the case…for the alleged overpricing of the President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard whether or not the decision is in our favor or adverse to us." *(Ganun pala. So what difference does it make whether you resign now or later?*—NHC)

"We are merely asserting our right to be considered innocent unless proven guilty," Tuazon said, "a right guaranteed to all Filipinos by the Constitution." *(If there is not enough evidence against you, you would still be acquitted even if you are no longer with the PEA.—NHC )*

"We cannot be made to resign under a cloud of doubt," Tuazon continued. "As a politician, I cannot resign with unproved charges hanging over my head because I do not want my constituents to believe that I feel guilty as charged. I have an obligation to clear my name first." *(Another PEA director, Joemari Gerochi, has already resigned but nobody is saying that he is guilty or "under a cloud of doubt." On the contrary, he is being praised for doing the honorable thing. Tuazon and the other directors can still clear their names even when they are no longer with the PEA.—NHC)*

"The PEA board members are appointed to a term of three years," Tuazon said. "Therefore, unlike the Cabinet members, they do not serve at the pleasure of the President but under the pleasure of the law." *(Don't you understand? The President no longer trusts you. She has lost confidence in you. She wants you out. Even if you cling to the PEA, you are finished. Panis na kayong lahat.—NHC)*

In a press release reacting to a Malacañang press statement repeating the plea for the PEA directors to please, please, please resign now, Tuazon said: "Staying put is a matter of respect, dignity and honor." *(I will repeat what I wrote in the Oct. 29 column: "More important than a position and its perks are self-respect, dignity and honor. Don't exchange them for the money that position brings. You can still clear yourselves even if you no longer occupy that position. Junk it and save your honor."—NHC)*

## Day of the dead

### THERE'S THE RUB

*Conrado de Quiros*

THAT was an abominable thing that happened in Laguna last Tuesday: the murder of Mayor Clarence Benwaren of Tineg, Abra. It wasn't the first attempt on his life. There had been several before, but he survived them, probably because he was prepared. He wasn't so last Tuesday, and for good reason. He was far from Abra, and he was inside a church, San Isidro Labrador.

Benwaren was about to sign a marriage contract as one of the sponsors at a wedding when an assassin walked up to him and shot him in head point-blank. He died on the spot.

The depth and suddenness of the tragedy you could see in his wife's face as Benwaren's lifeless body was being wheeled into the San Pablo community hospital. She was not weeping. She had an absentminded look, as though she had forgotten something. Or her mind couldn't quite catch up with the current—and grim—reality of her 33-year-old husband taken away from the world in the flush of life.

Benwaren's murder does tend to redefine the terms of Philippine politics, as our story last Wednesday put it. It adds whole new dimensions to political violence, breaking new ground in audacity, or heresy. Literally, nothing is sacred anymore. Not even places of worship. Like the murder of Nida Blanca, which shattered our sense of security or our belief in the natural order of things (if it could happen to Nida Blanca, it could happen to us), this murder in the cathedral ups the ante on mayhem. You may no longer draw the line on the lengths to which the murderous hand, guided by politics, will go.

But though this is so, this is by no means the first time it has happened. There was a precedent, which happened 32 years ago last week. That was the murder of Floro Crisologo on Oct. 18, 1970.

That was quite literally a murder in the cathedral. Crisologo, a Marcos man, was in the thick of a bitter feud with the Singsons, who belonged to the opposition and were challenging his rule in Ilocos Sur. The feud had reached an unparalleled scale of violence in the elections the previous year, Floro's son, Bingbong (now a born-again evangelist), at one point burning down a couple of barrios supporting the Singsons. In those same elections, Floro was challenged as congressman by a Singson who would become a household name 30 years later for figuring in another violent feud. He was Luis "Chavit" Singson.

That Sunday, Crisologo ("I am the king of Ilocos Sur," he told Marcos who pleaded with him to patch things up with the Singsons) left his bodyguards outside the gates of St. Paul's Cathedral and went inside to hear Mass. He felt safe; this was hallowed ground. But while kneeling on a pew, head bowed, a gunman stole up to him and shot him in the head. As he slumped on the floor, another gunman came over and pumped more bullets into his heart. Crisologo, 60, died on the spot.

The event redefined Philippine politics in ways even the elections of the previous year had not. And those elections, where Marcos won a second term, were exceptionally bloody. It rivaled, as several scholars would say later, the period of La Violencia in Latin America where thousands perished in political assassinations and massacres. The killing of Crisologo claimed only one life but it altered the shape of politics altogether. Henceforth, there was to be no refuge from murder and mayhem.

There are two things to worry about here.

The first is that crime today has clearly gone out of hand. It is not merely that it has become more plentiful, it is that it has become more brazen. Yet the government's inability to do something about it is covered by the mantle of "terrorism." All the AFP does is trot out reports about the apparent collusion of various extremist groups, and suddenly the government's inability to curb or solve bombings, kidnappings and murder is explained away as the result of fighting a nameless, faceless, shadowy enemy. More to the point, the very same AFP and PNP are given more powers—and budget—to do what they have not been able to do. Is it any wonder murderers now feel free to enter churches and gun down people?

The second and far more worrisome thing here is its implication for the future of democracy. Thirty years ago last September, Marcos used the murder of Crisologo and the subsequent spiraling of violence—including, not unlike today, sporadic bombings—to declare martial law. I myself believe that cannot be duplicated today, at least not in its entirety, not in its formal aspects. But it can be so in its parts, in its essential aspects. You don't need to declare martial law to have de facto martial law. Already, we can catch the alarming drift of the government in that direction.

As I've warned in past weeks, foreign and domestic policies are no longer being made by the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Office of the Executive Secretary. They are being made by the National Security Council. They are being made by Roilo Golez, Angelo Reyes and Roy Cimatu. Under the banner of fighting terrorism, they are calling the shots on everything from preparing evacuation plans for OFWs in Iraq to preparing emergency plans for fighting "terrorism." Chief of them, an ID system, which is really compiling a dossier on people. All violence, including criminal violence, now falling under the general rubric of "terrorism"—they have been using "crime" and "terror" interchangeably these past months—the National Security Council becomes more powerful by the day.

Even as we mourn the deaths of our loved ones today, let us remember that death takes many forms and claims many things. Freedom has been known to be one of its victims.

But that at least is within our power to prevent.

* * *

*Comments to dequiros@vasia.com*

# A tortuous transition for Poland

## ANALYSIS

*Amando Doronila*

WARSAW—Poland has taken a tortuous road in its transition from communism and its centrally planned economy to liberal democracy and market economy—a process that has been telescoped to less than 12 years. It has an unruly multi-party parliamentary system, as unstable as the Philippines' democratic presidential system; and its economic growth has slowed as a result of the traumatic adjustment to capitalism.

When the opposition parties that grew out of the Solidarity Movement won the first free Polish elections in the post-war years after the Roundtable Talks in February 1989, the polls not only effectively ended 44 years of communist rule. They also resulted in a landslide victory for the democratic opposition parties and in the election of Solidarity leader Lech Walesa as president in 1990. He succeeded Gen. Wojciech Jaruslski, who negotiated the power-sharing arrangements in the Round Table talks. The non-violent transfer of power—through negotiations—was unique in the Soviet bloc which at the time was beginning to crack.

In this transition, the Catholic Church played a key role, with the Polish Pope, the former Cardinal Karol Wojtyla of Cracow, exercising his enormous influence on the 90-percent Catholic Polish population to support the democratic candidates.

There are parallels with the Polish transition in the fact that Jaime Cardinal Sin played a key role in mobilizing people power in 1986 to bring down the Marcos regime. But their dynamics of change are different. Poland's transfer of power was negotiated and took place in an environment where Soviet hegemony over the Eastern satellite states was in an advance stage of decay and the centrally controlled economies were breaking down from their inefficiencies. The other difference is that the Philippines in 1986 broke away from a right-wing dictatorship, while Poland dumped a leftist totalitarianism whose strings were pulled by the communist leaders of the Soviet Empire.

One of the results of both the Polish and Filipino transitions, even though they were coming from different political circumstances, is a chaotic multi-party system that up until now has not settled down into a stable party system. In the Sejm, the Polish parliament, the Democratic Left Alliance, a creation of reformed ex-communists, holds the majority of 196 seats, but this majority is illusory. There are 10 other parties which fragment the vote and they come from groups with varying political persuasions including extreme nationalist right-wing parties. These ultra-right groups include the League of Policy Families, which holds 36 seats, and the Self Defense of the Republic of Poland, with 49 seats. These two parties form the hard core of opposition to Poland's accession to the enlarged European Union.

The fragmentation of parties is a similar feature of the post-Marcos restoration of Philippine democracy. This fragmentation has resulted, in the Philippine context, in the failure of any party to win a parliamentary majority in its own right and in the formation of unstable coalitions. From this unstable foundation, the recurrence of parliamentary deadlocks, like what has happened in the Senate, does not come as a surprise.

The contentious nature of Polish parliamentary politics was highlighted recently by brawls inside the Sejm, where a deputy had to be bodily dragged out of the building after he had steadfastly refused to yield the podium. One academic has described the fractious nature of Polish democracy this way: If 10 Poles sat around a table for discussion, each one becomes a political party.

It is under this discordant political environment that Poland is preparing feverishly to join the European Union, which has made a working liberal democracy one of the conditions for accession. In time, the Polish political system could crystallize into a stable party system, and so, it is hoped, will the Philippines' party system. But in the meantime, economic growth and development have to be fashioned under these unstable political conditions.

Poland's Gross Domestic Product has slowed to around 1.3 percent, and government economists forecast a 3 percent growth rate next year and 4 percent the following year. In this regard, their prediction is typical of the usual optimism of official forecasts that we associate with the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) at a time of an economic downturn.

Poland's unemployment is high at 18 percent. As it negotiates the final terms of accession, a key issue is the modernization of its agriculture and agricultural subsidies from the EU. Since the transformation of the economy from 1990, privatization of enterprises has gone a long way. The private sector provides 75 percent of the country's GDP, employing 70 percent of professionally active Poles. Among the Soviet satellite states, it was Poland that did not fit into the mold of the Soviet economic model. The majority of its farmers were small land holders. Stalin failed to bend Polish agriculture into collective farms. The small farmers were the source of the underground economy producing food. Their free enterprise averted food shortages that plagued the former Soviet Union and other satellite states. In the early '90s, the number of private companies totaled 1.75 million. Today, it has increased to more than 3 million. Most of the private enterprises are small- and medium-sized, making the business structure competitive as well as democratic.

Poland suffers from weak and inadequate infrastructure. Highways are narrow and not strong enough to carry heavy lorry traffic of goods transiting between Poland and the existing members of the EU. Our experience illustrates this problem. On a trip by road from Warsaw to Cracow, we were stalled for hours on a 12-kilometer stretch of highway because two lanes were being rebuilt. The trip normally takes four hours. We reached Cracow after eight hours. It was not much different from the traffic jams in Luzon's highways.

# 'Yes' to life—and death

## AT LARGE

*Rina Jimenez-David*

IT'S one of those days, when nothing seems to spring to mind to share with you, readers. Having written yesterday of how I'd like my body to be disposed of, I thought it would be too much to have yet another column on death. But death is very much on our minds these days, especially today, when, in keeping with tradition, Filipinos will be trooping to cemeteries to keep our loved ones "company," to light candles and offer flowers and prayers, our presence proof that the dead have not been forgotten.

So, I went searching for material on death and found this poem, written by Kahlil Gibran, quoted in the book "A Different Love: Being Gay in the Philippines," by Dr. Margarita Go Singco-Holmes (Anvil Publishing, 1993).

Here's what the poet had to say:

Then Almitra spoke, saying: We would ask now of Death.

And he said:

You would know the secret of death.

But how shall you find it unless you seek it in the heart of life?

The owl whose night-bound eyes are blind unto the day cannot unveil the mystery of light.

If you would indeed behold the spirit of death, open your heart wide unto the body of life.

For life and death are one, even as the river and sea are one.

In the depth of your hopes and desires lies your silent knowledge of the beyond;

And like seeds dreaming beneath the snow your heart dreams of spring.

Trust the dreams, for in them is hidden the gate of eternity.

Your fear of death is but the trembling of the shepherd when he stands before the king whose hand is to be laid upon him in honor.

Is the shepherd not joyful beneath his trembling, that he shall wear the mark of the king?

Yet is he not more mindful of his trembling?

For what is to die but to stand naked in the wind and to melt into the sun?

And what is it to cease breathing but to free the breath from its restless tides, that it may rise and seek God unencumbered?

Only when you drink from the river of silence shall you indeed sing.

And when you have reached the mountaintop, then you shall begin to climb.

And when the earth shall claim your limbs, then shall you truly dance.

* * *

**MARGIE quoted the passage above in remembrance of her friend Manolo, who passed away in 1992 due to complications of HIV/AIDS. The "Manolo letters," as Manolo himself called the correspondence between him and Margie, first appeared in Margie's columns but were reprinted as a collection in the last chapter of her book "Life, Love and Lust." In a review of that book, I had written about how the story of Manolo's life and his eloquent testimony on facing illness and death had moved me to tears. So were so many other readers, it seems.**

**In a letter to a mutual friend of his and Margie's, Manolo wrote of how he had agreed to have his letters made public "in the hope that some individual in the Philippines who is ill might benefit from my thoughts." But as it turns out, he notes, "readers focused on the issue of how one suffers through a terrible terminal illness. Perhaps this is the universal concern we all share regardless of our sexual orientation or state of health: how we can make sense out of the pain in our lives…Perhaps the Manolo letters are affording certain people the chance to see an individual's pain and, by doing so, gain a little more courage to face their own pain regardless of what it might be."**

* * *

IN "A Different Love," Margie concludes the story of Manolo by reprinting a letter he wrote less than a month before he passed away. "It is a testimony to the man," she says, "that up until the very end, despite being in great pain, he never despaired. It is a testimony to the man that despite his faith and trust and unwavering belief in truth and beauty, he never came across as Mr. Goody Two Shoes."

Here is Manolo, Mr. Non-Goody Two Shoes, talking to friends about the last days of his life:

"My dear, dear friends and beloved family;

"Over the years as I pondered this very difficult problem, several prospects came to my mind—the most perfect and simplest being that I am really dying.

"Thank you very much for being here today. Literally, my gratitude knows no bounds. Thank you for all the goodness and openness that you have shown me during my months of trial, pain and darkness.

"But most of all, thank you for making me brave enough during this past terrible time to be able to say 'yes' to the Father. If you look hard through the pages of my life, you will see nothing but a soul-wrenching 'yes' that has been the product of many 'yes-es' both big and small. In a way, a communal 'yes' can be said by all of us, but only through the light and grace of God. For this marvelous gift, I thank you all immensely.

"So as I leave for my grave, I say 'yes' with the gentlest of thanksgiving and 'yes' with the most glorious of alleluias. Today you have made me triumphant.

"So goodbye my friends, my family, all who have been yes persons to me. For one day we shall say 'yes' in the great grace and peace of heaven.

"Much, much love always, Manolo."

May we, in our lives and in the manner by which we face our death, likewise embrace our fate, saying "yes" to all that life here and in the hereafter have to offer!

# Views of the afterlife

## LOOKING BACK

*Ambeth R. Ocampo*

OVER DINNER last Wednesday, someone asked me the P2-million jackpot question on "Game Ka Na Ba?" Who was the Pope who instituted all Saints' Day?

I confidently gave my final answer: Gregory X. Of course, I was wrong, but I figured that it was a safe guess because significant ancient popes seem to be named either Leo or Gregory.

The correct answer was Boniface IV. If I were the contestant, I would have been P2 million poorer, but I consoled myself with the thought that I was not so dumb. Also on the dinner table were two Ph.D.s in history, the chair of the Ateneo History Department and the Jesuit dean of the Ateneo School of Social Sciences. Both didn't even risk a guess. The difficulty of questions in seemingly inane game shows have really risen in direct proportion to the cash prize. The chair of the National Historical Institute will probably be kicked out early in the game with total winnings of P3,000.

Every Nov. 1, many newspaper articles point out that Filipinos are not so keen on liturgical celebrations. Nobody seems to mind or notice that we visit the cemeteries on the wrong day, Nov. 1, which in the Roman Catholic calendar is the Feast of All Saints. Not all dead people can be considered saints or even saintly, so why visit them on All Saints' day? Boniface IV might have created the Feast of All Saints but the one who fixed the date on Nov. 1 was Gregory IV in 835 A.D. What we secular people overlook is that Nov. 2 is the day set aside for the commemoration of all the faithful departed, more popularly known as All Souls' Day. Oh well, we have a long weekend this year so why bother.

To find something relevant for this column, I turned to Fr. Francisco Demetrio's two-volume "Encyclopedia of Philippine Folk Beliefs and Customs" and found an entire chapter on Death. One can write so many columns on customs and practices concerning death—from wake to burial, to 40th day to the first anniversary. There are sections on various beliefs, some I have heard of, like seeing black butterflies or moths is an omen of death. An unexplained scent of roses or grandma's perfume also means death or the visit of some soul invisible to the naked eye.

Other beliefs are more esoteric: Solving riddles at night is bad—someone will die. If a spider falls on a sick person, he or she will die. A child sucking his lips in sleep means death. Grinding teeth while sleeping means wishing the death of a parent or a relative. The rumble of thunder signifies the death of a prominent person. If two pregnant women sleep side by side, a child will die (go to the overcrowded wards of the Philippine General Hospital and check if this is valid). An adult urinating in bed is a premonition of death. A black bird entering the house at night signifies death. A black cat passing by signifies death in the family.

Just browsing through this maze of customs and beliefs made me realize how much Filipinos have changed since Father Demetrio compiled his encyclopedia almost 30 years ago.

More intriguing for me were non-Christian beliefs and customs on death. It is very educational to see death from a non-Catholic, non-Manila point of view. For example, we are so limited in our beliefs about the afterlife. There are only three choices for Catholics—heaven, hell, or purgatory—but for Muslims in Basilan in the 1880s there were seven types of hell: "(1) Naruk Yahanna—in this hell there is confusion; (2) Naruk Sacar—here there are contrivances and animals to inflict torture; (3) Naruk Sigmilti—in this hell there are tortures in language; (4) Naruk Abus—here there are very ugly things; (5) Naruk Jauya—here one is run through with spears; (6) Naruk Zealt—here one suffers thirst; (7) Naruk Jamia—here one is tortured with fire."

The Tagbanwa of Palawan, according to Robert Fox, believed that their soul-relatives live and die seven times in the Underworld. Again the magic No. 7, again the belief that the soul goes under the ground. What I like about this is that the afterworld is also a life, not wearing white robes and singing hymns with *lola* for all eternity. Frankly, hell seems to be populated by more interesting people, but back to the Tagbanwa:

"Life in *basad* (Tagbanwa underworld) mirrors the life of the living. The soul-relatives plant and grow rice, live in families and have children until they die seven times. Everything in *basad* is inverted. When it is dark on earth, there is sunlight there. In the underworld, the rivers flow from the oceans to the mountains, not from the mountains to the oceans. When rice is being harvested there, it is planting time on earth. Rice is eaten cold in *basad*, not hot.

"The soul-relatives each die seven times. The first time that the *tiladmanin* (dead relative) dies in the underworld, it is buried by other soul-relatives. But the next six times, insects and small animals in the underworld bury it. After the soul-relatives have died seven times, they return to earth transmigrated as the *ramuramu*. These are insects and tiny animals which are not edible but do not eat rice or green plants—insects and animals useless to man and vaguely dangerous (examples of such are dragonflies and dung beetles)."

Friar accounts of the Philippines and the Filipinos in the 16th century also give us views of the afterlife that makes fascinating reading for Nov. 1 and 2. If all these were taught in school, it would enlarge our imagination, and more importantly, our understanding of other peoples and other beliefs.

* * *

*Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph*

# People of the lie

## COMMENTARY

*Antonio Calipjo Go*

SOMEONE made the facetious remark that the difference between a cat and a lie is that a cat has only nine lives.

The fraudulent results of the National Secondary Assessment Test (NSAT) and the National Elementary Assessment Test (NEAT) in school year 1999-2000 given by what was the called the Department of Education, Culture and Sports is a two-year-old lie which has survived to this day because it has never been denounced. The results of these tests, published in May 2000 amid gloating and fanfare by then Education Secretary Andrew Gonzalez, showed public elementary schools grabbing all the top 10 slots in the NEAT and public high schools getting 9 out of the top 10 slots in the NSAT.

An astounding six among the top 10 were public elementary schools Samar and Leyte, a region known for its inferior standard of education. Two were in Agusan del Sur, while Pampanga and Camarines Sur rounded out the list. Not one elementary school, public or private, from the more sophisticated cities such as Cebu, Davao, Baguio, Naga or Iloilo made the grade. Even more intriguing is the fact that not one elementary school, public or private, in the National Capital Region made it to the top. An obscure public school, the SUA Elementary School in Masantol, Pampanga, garnered mind-blowing scores of 94.23 percent in Filipino, 98.85 percent in English, 98.94 percent in Math and 99.13 percent in Social Studies and was first on the list.

In the NSAT, only one private school in Metro Manila—St. Jude Catholic School—made it to the top 10, placing eighth overall. The Caraga Regional Science High School in Surigao City was No. 1, ahead of even the Philippine Science High School in Quezon City, which placed fourth. Ateneo, Xavier, Miriam and Poveda, which led the list of top performing schools in the 1996 NSAT, were nowhere on the list.

Only a fool would have believed that they teach better at the Caraga Regional Science High School in Surigao City than they do at the Ateneo de Manila University in Quezon City, yet the wonder of it all is that people believed those results implicitly. The vice president of the Federation of Association of Private School Administrators merely shrugged off the dismal performance of their member schools, saying that "most of our students simply ignored the tests." The principal of the Ateneo de Manila High School could not explain why one of the most prestigious schools in the country did not even land among the top 20 in both exams. It placed 35th in the NSAT while its grade school was not even among the top 100 in the NEAT.

The truth lies barely hidden in statements made by then Education Secretary Raul Roco in February 2001 when he ordered schools to refrain from conducting review classes for the NEAT and NSAT because "the practice was defrauding the results of the exams." He vowed to look into reports that "test questions and answers were leaked to certain schools, thereby giving their students undue advantage." By July that year, he was already planning to abolish the tests, citing allegations that students who took these tests were "given all the questions and answers." Also, the NEAT and NSAT results of the last four years showed that students correctly answered less than 50 percent of the questions given. The Mean Percentage Scores in the NEAT of Regions 5, 9 and 12 from 1993 to 1995 were a pathetic 42 percent. Roco finally ordered the cancellation of the tests beginning in January 2002. The results of the January 2001 NEAT and NSAT were never made public.

Are the spurious results of these aptitude tests merely white lies? As a consequence of their beating private schools in these exams, a victory snatched under false pretenses, enrollment in public schools rose dramatically. Their share of the total student population grew from only 42 percent 20 years ago to its present 76 percent. The share of private schools, on the other hand, declined drastically, from 58 percent in 1969 to 40 percent in 1987 to only 24 percent in 2000. The false results of the 1999-2000 tests shattered the faith and trust of people in private educational institutions forever and precipitated the mass exodus of students from private schools to public schools, a bloodletting that continues to this day. If public schools were truly dispensing quality education, the rigging of the results of those tests might be considered a mere indiscretion. But when there is a growing perception that the public school system is continuously "sickening unto death," then it constitutes a conspiracy to defraud. It is deceit with a purpose: to make "*pogi*" the image of the public schools by destroying that of the private schools.

The mastermind behind this crude and brazen scam as well as his henchmen should be exposed and prosecuted.

For not teaching correctly when it should, the 2002 Basic Education Curriculum (BEC) now being implemented in all public schools is another falsehood, another lie.

The publication of two articles—a paid advertisement in this paper titled "Miseducating the Nation" which enumerated some of the 540 errors (excluding typos) of the Secondary English Language Curriculum and a letter to the editor titled "Put the BEC on hold"—would have been understood by any self-respecting individual or entity as a direct challenge to its integrity. But the Department of Education under Secretary Edilberto de Jesus chose to ignore them completely. Until it is confronted head-on and refuted, the serious charge that the BEC is defective will not simply go away.

Who were the people behind the making of the BEC? How long did the process take? Finally, how much did it cost the nation?

Because these are unanswered questions, they all belong to the category of untruths.

At the start of his stint as education secretary, Roco declared: "Every graduate should be a hero, someone who could tell the truth." He also said, "I don't want to be told lies. We all get mad when we are lied to."

Indeed, nobody wants to be deceived. It is time therefore for the DepEd to tell the truth about a certain tree in their garden, a tree whose fruit bothers and bewilders. The BEC is that tree, its destructive instructions the fruit that miseducates entirely and permanently.

Because it is enforced with the finality of law, the BEC is a lie that is repeated in thousands of classrooms all over the land. Because it is replicated vigorously and incessantly, this lie will acquire a semblance of truth. It will then outlive the relentless, senseless changing of the guards at the DepEd. Evil condoned, even by just keeping passively silent, is evil consented. We must stop the lie that is the BEC before it destroys the future of our children.

*Antonio Calipjo Go is the academic supervisor of Marian School of Quezon City.*

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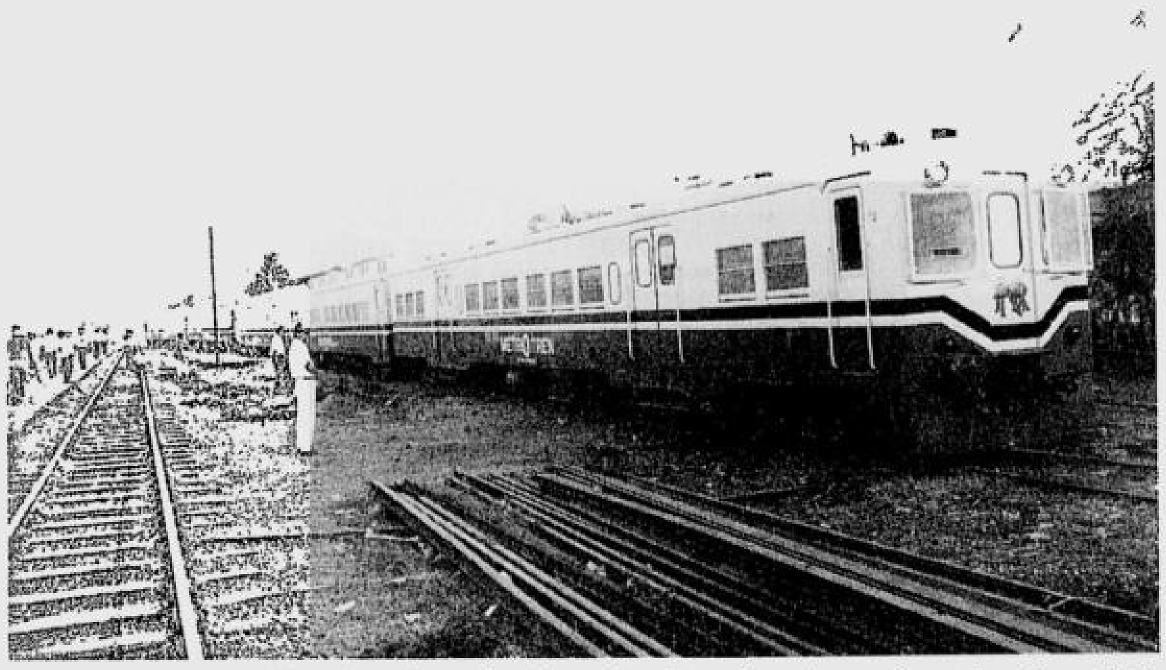
# Road and rail should go together

I REALLY appreciate the attention the INQUIRER has been giving to railways. Unless there is the occasional train wreck or accident, this efficient form of land transportation is virtually ignored in the media. Because railways are largely out of sight, and thus out of mind, the real meaning to the letters PNR is Perpetually Neglected Railway. The Philippine National Railways' (PNR) annual budget allocation from Congress for the last five years tells the story.

Here is something more I'd like you to consider. Because of the near absence of railways, the land transportation picture in the Philippines is badly out of balance.

This morning I was watching the traffic report on "Magandang Umaga Bayan." On my TV screen was Edsa near the corner of Kamuning. I saw three lanes clogged with vehicles going toward Cubao. In the center of the picture was the MRT line. If I could take that TV image and put it on a page in the INQUIRER, my caption would read: "More trains here would keep Edsa clear."

The idea is simple: rail and road should be complementing each other all over the country. If more PNR commuter trains were running to Laguna, would it make life on the parallel South Superhighway more bearable? I think so. I've traveled to Sucat using either road or rail from time to time.



I have been on efficient rail networks in Asia. The Philippines deserves much better rail service than what it's getting. True, the steam locomotive was the most familiar symbol of the Industrial Revolution. New technology however is making railways as relevant and efficient in nation building today as they were back then.

I'd be happy to share my ideas about rail another time. Doris Dumlao has already received my thanks. Allow me to thank you also for a nice series.

**—GARY L. SATRE,**
**railway enthusiast and advocate,**
**51 Magiting St., Teachers Village,**
**Diliman, Quezon City 1101**

## Successful people transform society

MANY letters you have published recently show education to be vital in bringing about social change. The idea is (1) to educate the masses of people so that they can become (2) a well-informed electorate that (3) will vote responsibly for candidates who will (4) create general prosperity without corruption so that (5) the masses of our people will become productive citizens. This is a noble goal.

In the United States, one seldom hears anything about uplifting the well-being of the masses since initiative and prosperity are viewed as personal qualities. Americans honor and value the "self-made man."

Certainly working for the betterment of others is a noble and Christian principle. The idea of leveling the playing field makes good sense. Yet we also know that "God helps those who help themselves." It can be a long daisy chain before society is transformed sufficiently to suit everyone's material needs. Due to human nature itself, prosperity may have more to do with an individual's mind-set, his lack of doubt and his will to succeed.

I recall Ronald Reagan advising jobless Americans to "vote with your feet." Many citizens did exactly that and moved to sunbelt states where jobs were more plentiful.

Very successful people transform society to suit their own needs. Success will not be denied them as they are consumed with their own vision. Bill Gates is an example. He dropped out of business school because of boredom. I would bet that more than a few taipans here in the Philippines were also impatient to get an education. A good general education is an advantage, but beyond that encouraging desire, vision and entrepreneurial skills are also essential.

Many modern thinkers say that the nature of the universe is abundance. In this view, lack is just a problem of perception. Yet perceptions are hard to change and education can help here also.

**—GEORGE LOFTUS,**
**Marapangi 2, Toril, Davao City**

## A movie for Advent

I TOOK time to watch "9 Mornings," and what a timely preparation it is for the coming holidays! It is a truly inspiring film. We salute Star Cinema for churning out feel-good movies like this.

Piolo Pascual is heir to a fortune, but he can only have it on condition that he completes his "nine mornings." This very simple plot evolves into a beautiful story of love and care and reaching out to oneself and to the very people around you, but primarily to one's God.

I've been informed that the film was based upon a play by student theologian Tony Miranda who is in the Netherlands. The Dutch have been noted for being avant-garde in theologizing. But theology is a living science of the God who is "alive and well, living in His creations."

Some sections of the film may be disconcerting to traditionalists and the very conservative. It's Communion time, and Donita tells him, "*Magkomunion tayo.*" "*Eh hindi pa ako nangungumpisal.*" But just the same he goes to Communion because "*sa Diyos ka naman nangungumpisal.*"

Actually, there's no problem here. You don't have to go through the sacrament of reconciliation every time you go to Communion. Why should we presuppose that he is in serious sin?

The same is true when he joins the queue to have confession. The priest stands up when Piolo enters the confessional. Just the same he proceeds with his confession. After all, this sacrament, aside from being sanctifying, is therapeutic.

Director Joey Javier Reyes did a good job on this one.

**—MSGR. NICO BAUTISTA,**
**8436 Kalayaan Ave.,**
**Makati City**

## Why are good judges dying?

EVERY TIME a good judge dies, a part of the judiciary system dies too.

I feel, despite being just an ordinary citizen, that I am part of the whole Philippine justice system. So I ask why it seems that its the good judges, the Lord's instruments in this country, who are dying. There are a few judges who deserve to be hanged upside down because of their greed for grease money and their love for women and wine. They blacken the very good image of the judiciary led by the highly respected Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

Let us put up an effective system that would enable the community to provide feedback to court administrators which should help them weed out judges who use their positions to amass wealth.

**—CRISTINA OCAMPO-FERRER,**
**School of the Holy Spirit-**
**Las Piñas City, Lots 29 and 30,**
**Marcos Alvarez, Talon,**
**Las Piñas City**

## Malaysian cops should pay for girl's rape

THE MALAYSIAN government should not divert public attention from the issue of the rape of the 13-year-old girl by police officials. The fact that the girl was able to identify the seven men who had raped her should suffice for the government to act on the allegations.

It is irrelevant whether the girl was Malaysian or Filipino. The issue at hand is that a 13-year-old child has been raped. It is therefore the responsibility of the Malaysian government to take action against the perpetrators of the sexual assault.

In this case, the action and investigation should be even more transparent and forceful since people in authority are involved.

We congratulate President Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines for her statement and concern over the rape of the girl and the abuse that happened in a Malaysian detention camp.

But we are worried that upon her return the girl will be placed under the protection of the state in an environment that may not be hospitable for her. There have been cases where the victims were forced to withdraw their charges. To ensure that the girl gets proper counseling and medical support, she should be placed in an independent safe house managed by a women's group.

It was the Malaysian authorities who made the unforgivable mistake of deporting the innocent girl. Will Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad and Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar apologize to the girl for the humiliation and trauma she has suffered? Does this not reflect the sad state of affairs in Sabah itself that no one is sure who is Malaysian and who is not? In fact, the safety of women and children in Sabah is of grave concern for us.

**—DR. IRENE FERNANDEZ,**
**director, Tenaganita (Women's**
**Force), tenaganita@yahoo.co.uk**

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## PR is more than just making client look good

WHEN a PR practitioner like Charlie A. Agatep who normally works behind the scene comes out of his shell and openly gripes about another PR practitioner for receiving a supposedly high fee (Commentary, 10/12/02), the comment of Piatco's lead counsel Eduardo delos Angeles made before the Senate blue ribbon committee comes to mind. "Yes, Mr. Senator," he told Sen. Sergio Osmeña, "we are both envious."

Indeed, it must have been envy more than anything else that drove Agatep to write that commentary. Though we wonder if the fees Agatep got for the 52 or so Maso (Piatco's main adversary) full-page advertisements in major dailies was really much smaller, considering that his principals are PAL and Miascor, the two biggest and richest players in the country's premier airport.

We fully agree with him that "public relations is a profession of great social impact." His guiding principle in his PR work, however, is "to help individuals and organizations tell their stories well." We have read and reread his article, searching for something, and we are curious that nowhere did he say that in PR the practitioner should also be guided by **truth** and **fairness**.

So we are not surprised that not only in his full-page paid ads but in his article the truth has been sacrificed—all in the name of "telling the good stories."

Alfonso Liongson's consultancy contract with Piatco was signed on June 21, 2001. The original Piatco concession agreement was signed on July 12, 1997, the Amended and Restated Concession Agreement (Arca) on Nov. 26, 1998, the First Supplement to Arca on Aug. 27, 1999, the Second Supplement to Arca on Sept. 4, 2000, and the Third Supplement on June 22, 2001. It is clear that when Liongson came into the picture, all the contractual documents for the Naia 3 project, except the last, had been executed. In fact, the construction of the facility had by then already been in progress for one year.

No evidence, in any forum, neither in the House nor in the Senate committees that conducted the inquiry on the matter, not even in the Office of the Ombudsman, has ever been produced to support Agatep's allegations.

Of course, Agatep discerns correctly the root of the problem: "There are no licensing boards to regulate PR practice." Thus he and his ilk feel free to depart from the truth when they try to make their clients look good.

**—MOISES S. TOLENTINO JR.,**
**vice president, Philippine**
**International Air Terminals Co.**
**Inc., 3/F PAIR-PAGS Center,**
**Naia Compound,**
**Ninoy Aquino Avenue, Pasay City**

## Osmeñas dividing up Cebu

"ONCE again, politics divide Osmeña family in Cebu," said the headline of one of your stories last Oct 11.

You had things backward. What is being divided is Cebu, among the members of the Osmeña Mafia clan. It is as if the Osmeñas own by inheritance the political landscape of the island and city and no one is entitled to hold any political office there unless there is no Osmeña available to fill that office.

Philippine politics has a very pronounced mafioso flavor, and that is the principle evil that has to be overcome if you want a decent, fair society in the Philippines. But the problem is the hoi polloi accept this state of affairs as if it has been ordained by Church and State—which is in fact the reality.

In the Western world, by and large, such privileged castes no longer exist. In the Philippines, privileged families revel in wealth, power and influence while their serfs go hungry, live in shanties or nipa huts and have 10 or 15 children, all of which greatly pleases the Catholic Church and its God. It provides Church, pope and God with lots of poor folks on which to exercise their charitable instincts and then bask in the warm glow of their own sanctity. And contemplate the odds of becoming a saint.

**—ROBERT HANAN,**
**Unit 25-17 Bayview St.,**
**Runaway Bay,**
**Qld 4216, Australia**

# Thoughts on the Luna purchase by the GSIS

### VOICES ON INQ7.NET

I WAS sad to hear that an important part of our history would be sold. As an artist who was educated back there in the Philippines, I felt so much regret to learn about this. I strongly agree that these paintings should be brought back to the Philippines. Is there anything our government can do to get this heritage back? I wish that all those wealthy people back there would try to save this from being taken away from where it belongs.

Juan Luna was not just a painter. He was considered one of our national heroes. He helped in liberating our countrymen. So let's not take him for granted!—**fauve116**

* * *

Luna's work of art should be preserved and displayed for the Filipino people to enjoy and admire. Hopefully, his paintings will be a source of pride and serve as an inspiration to other Filipino artists.—**Inday**

* * *

Who says those are Filipinos? Even if they are, do they have any qualms squandering a precious work of art?

And besides, who cares about the Filipino heritage? The soul of the entire nation was already mortgaged beyond redemption! Heard about the trillions of pesos in public debts?—**peyote**

* * *

Peyote, Filipinos should care about their heritage. Do you ever think about your roots and where you came from? Do they make you happy and beam with pride? Who do young Filipinos have as role models, people they look up to and remember with respect and admiration? How do you feel when you hear the Philippine National Anthem?

I'll buy lotto tickets this weekend. If I win, I'll buy the paintings, open a museum in the Philippines and invite you to the grand opening.—**Inday**

* * *

Paintings are a commodity, they get traded like stamps....Like everything else it goes to the highest bidder and he owns it...Heritage? That's a stretch *naman*...—**amoy ong**

* * *

On a positive note, Pinoy painters aspiring for recognition and glory like Juan Luna should look at this as a crown jewel... This is no different from Picasso, Rembrandt and many great painters whose works of art are scattered all over the world...

Luna's works must be documented ...—**non sequitur**

* * *

If a priceless heritage such as this rare Juan Luna painting is being sold, we have really debased ourselves as a people. We have almost sold everything, even our very own soul as a people.—**macapili**

* * *

The purchase for P46 million of the Luna painting by the GSIS is ridiculous. Buying it for that amount is not an investment at all.

Some time in the mid-1990s, when the Philippine economy was doing very well, there was a Magsaysay-Ho painting that was sold for P16 million in a Christie's auction. Guess how much that painting is worth today? P6 million. Yup, that's it.—**Louie IV**

* * *

I am saddened that our fellow Filipinos don't understand the value of "Parisian Life." All they can see is the peso sign. Let's just say the majority of our fellow Filipinos are money hungry and love freebies.

The painting of Luna is priceless, it's part of our heritage. How many artifacts of our country with cultural value have been sold to foreigners? If that painting was bought by a Filipino (private citizen) we would not see that painting; it would have become a private collection. I'm glad the GSIS made a bold move to bid for the painting. Now all Filipinos can see it for free.—**Leslie**

* * *

Buying a painting for about P46 million is really an idiotic thing for the GSIS to do. It could not even give good benefits to its members, so it should not be spending a fortune for a Juan Luna painting. The first thing GSIS officials should have done was to improve the benefits of their members. If the Philippine government thought it ought to own this painting, then it should have taken measures to acquire the painting without spending a large amount by declaring it as part of the Filipino heritage. *O baka naman,* they were saying that they bought it but actually *ibinulsa lang nila ang pera!* What a pity that Filipinos needed to spend P46 million to acquire one of its own heritage.—**pvergara**

* * *

It's a pity. While my monthly pension from the GSIS is delayed, they bought that painting. They could have increased the benefits and the pensions of government employees. *Kakainis!* Wilson resign!—**Gracenel**

* * *

As a people, Filipinos have shown greatness. Luna's painting reflects that greatness, which was achieved when racial prejudice relegated our people to the lowly category of "indios" and a "white man's burden." We need to have possession of the painting so we can show to the world that we Filipinos have great minds, too.

Our country is in its present state not because we do not have great men, but rather because the corrupt *trapos* have become powerful. The Luna painting can give us hope and encourage us to do better, because we know we can, because Luna could. The P46 million is cheap if that is the price we have to pay to redeem our lost prestige.—**macapili**

* * *

Macapili, I agree wholeheartedly with your opinion. However, my point is financial investment—buying cheap and selling at a respectable profit (factoring today's exchange rate). Should the GSIS decide to sell that Luna painting next week or next year for liquidity purposes, I'm absolutely certain it won't be sold for greater than P46 million in terms of today's value of our currency. If the GSIS is forced to sell it for a cheaper amount for whatever reason, then we both can imagine the uproar in our society against the GSIS.

The GSIS shouldn't be investing in works of art. The National Museum should be the one buying them because they don't do it for investment purposes. They keep them—regardless of the value—for the same reasons you mentioned in your comment.

There was no risk of that Juan Luna painting falling into foreign ownership. I know most of the Filipino collectors who attended the auction, and I'm 99 percent sure I know who the "mysterious" caller was.—**Louie IV**

# Lawmaker hits deferment of Clean Air Act proviso

**By Christine Avendaño**

CONGRESS should not spare oil companies from the law that requires them to reduce the harmful contents of their oil products by next year.

This appeal was made by Marikina Rep. Del R. de Guzman, who urged his colleagues in the House to reconsider the approval of a joint congressional resolution suspending for two years the implementation of a provision in the Clean Air Act.

The resolution, which was approved on second reading in the House last week, called for the deferment of the implementation of the provision requiring oil firms to reduce aromatics and benzene content from 45 to 35 percent and four to two percent, respectively, from their oil products beginning January.

The reason cited for the deferment was the global increase in oil prices as a result of a possible war in Iraq. The House and Senate leaderships agreed to approve the joint resolution after it was endorsed by the National Security Council.

De Guzman said oil companies were capable of strictly conforming with the Clean Air Act. He said the firms were aware of the law's mandate and that cost and profit had already been inputted into their preparations for compliance with the law.

He said that while the deferment of the law's provision on gasoline specifications would provide temporary relief to the public, "the health costs, particularly for Metro Manila residents in terms of deteriorating air quality, should be a far stronger concern."

"I firmly believe that Congress should not spare the oil giants from what they can afford anyway," he said.

The representative said it was "unfortunate" for Congress to attempt to "tinker with (the law's) implementation" because this "telegraphs that legislators can play around with the very laws they themselves pass."

The House minority as well as some administration congressmen have questioned the approval on second reading of the joint resolution last week.

# Drilon files Investments Code bill

**By Rocky Nazareno**

THE ENTIRE Philippines as a virtual special economic zone?

This is practically what Senate President Franklin Drilon wants after he filed Senate Bill 2399, the Investments and Incentives Code of the Philippines.

The bill would "harmonize and simplify the government's administration of programs and policies on the grant of fiscal and non-fiscal incentives to promote foreign and domestic investments in the Philippines."

Under existing laws, the administration, implementation and issuance of investment promotion programs, issuance of policies relative to such and the granting of fiscal and non-fiscal incentives are being handled by various government agencies.

These agencies include the Board of Investments, Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, Clark Development Authority and other agencies mandated under various laws to establish, maintain and manage economic or free ports in the country.

"The system of having different agencies administer and implement various incentives and laws creates a perception among foreign investors that the Philippines does not have a unified and responsive investments promotion program and policy," Drilon said in a statement.

As such, Drilon said, it was "imperative that only one governing statute regulate the incentives granted by the government."

Incentives that will be affected by his bill include the income tax holiday, or net operating loss carry-over, capital equipment incentives, raw material incentives, incentives on breeding stocks and generic materials and deferred imposition of the minimum corporate income tax.

The proposed law will also provide for additional incentives in economic zones as well as incentives for foreign nationals in the form of special investors packages.

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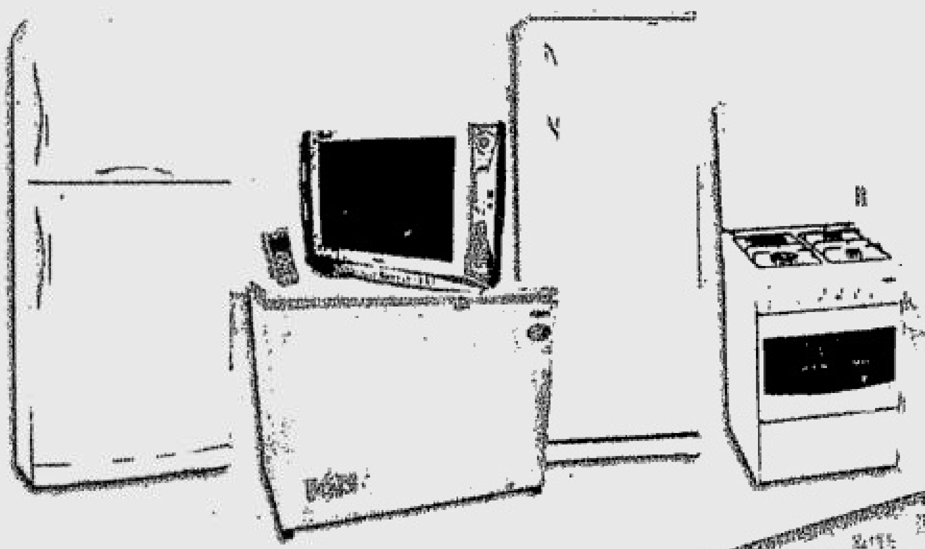

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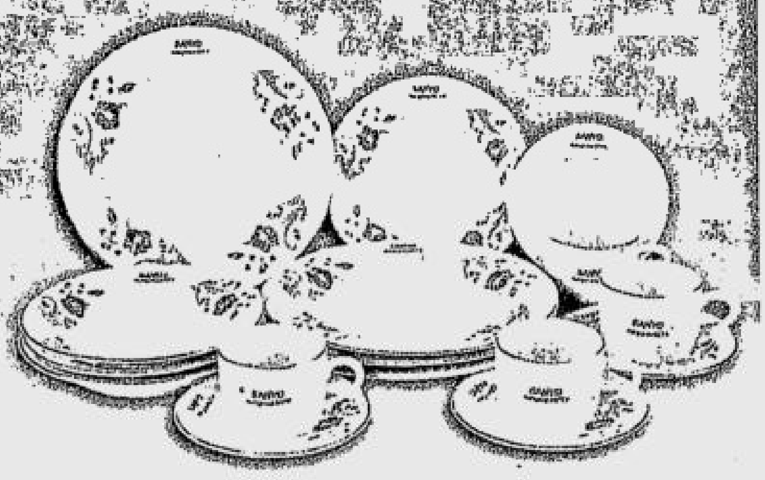

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# Trumped up, Collado calls immigration raps

By Michael Lim Ubac

COLLADO

THE LEADER of a foreign retirees' group, which has accused a small bank chaired by President Macapagal-Arroyo's personal publicist of denying them access to their deposits, has accused immigration officials of detaining him on trumped up charges.

Spanish lawyer Ramon Collado, president of the Philippine Retirement Authority Members Association (Prama), asked the Court of Appeals Monday to release him immediately from the custody of the bureau of immigration.

Collado was arrested by immigration agents for allegedly violating Philippine laws. He was set to be deported to Spain, but Dante Ang, the President's adviser on media affairs and new BankWise chair, objected and succeeded in convincing Domingo to stay his deportation.

In a letter to the BI on Oct. 21, Ang asked Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo to stop the scheduled deportation of Collado, saying he must not be allowed to leave until he substantiated his charges against him (Ang) and the bank.

Ang, who recently bought into the bank, and several bank officials had been accused by Collado and Prama officials of denying them access to their peso and dollar accounts in BankWise.

Prama claimed that BankWise officials had diverted the retirees' deposits to Seed Capital Inc., a firm which now owns 60 percent of BankWise.

In his petition for habeas corpus, Collado said there was no legal basis for his deportation.

"So far, petitioner had been verbally informed that the basis for his arrest preparatory to his deportation was a letter from the Philippine Retirement Association (PRA) to the Bureau of Immigration stating that he had violated conditions of his visa by being employed by Prama. Certainly, one can easily see the absurdity of this charge," he said.

Collado told the CA he has been in the country for 10 years with a Special Resident Retiree's Visa, and has been Prama's president for eight years but without any salary.

"Firstly, the PRA has not notified petitioner of the cancellation of his visa, much less called him to a hearing to explain his side. Secondly, and worse, they use an accusation that is a blatant lie," Collado said.

Ang's decision to invest in the small thrift bank six months ago drew widespread criticism and questions about his means to pay for the deal.

Ang, however, explained that he had bought only a small percentage of the bank with payments stretched out over several years.

In his 19-page petition, Collado said he was arrested on Oct. 14 by immigration agents at his Salcedo Village, Makati residence based on a mission order signed by Domingo.

He said he was informed that his special visa had been cancelled by the PRA, where he served as a consultant, therefore he was an undocumented alien subject to deportation.

"It should be noted that it was the PRA that conveniently caused my being undocumented on charges that were trumped up and have no basis in fact," he said.

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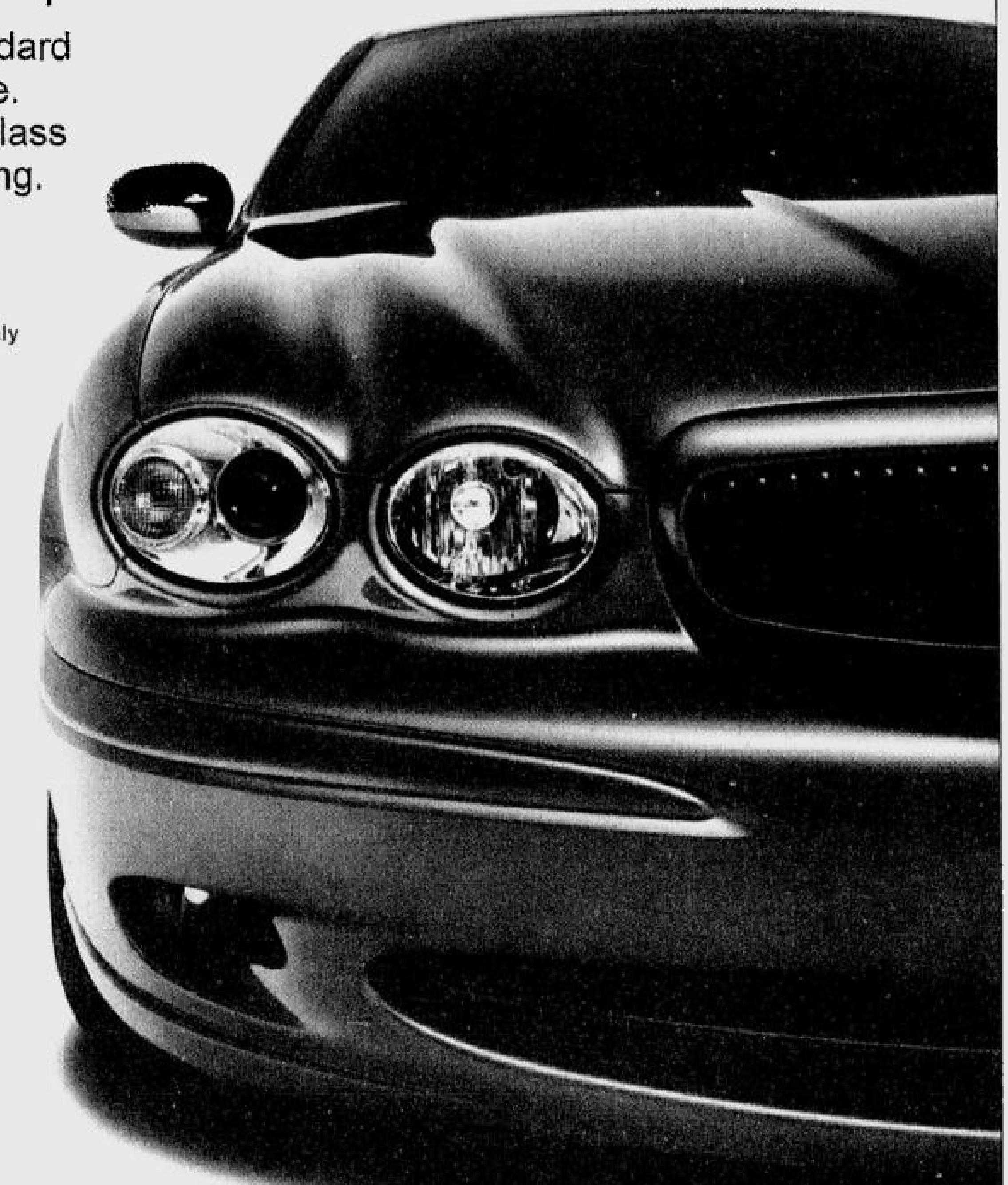

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# The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

# Rumsfeld predicts overthrow of Iran gov't

**WASHINGTON—US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has predicted an early overthrow of the Iranian government by its own people, or its collapse amid mounting problems and internal strife.**

But the forecast, made Wednesday during a radio call-in show, came in response to a question on whether the administration of President George W. Bush planned to move on to Iran after achieving its goal of "regime change" in Iraq.

Therefore, it appeared to signal that the administration saw no need to resort to overt or covert military measures to topple the regime in Tehran, because it expected it to tumble under its own weight.

"I suspect that during my lifetime we're going to see a change in that situation over there and that the young people and the women and the people who believe in freedom will overthrow that cleric government and it will fall in some way of its own weight," Rumsfeld said on "The Mike Gallagher Show.".

The defense secretary, who turned 70 in July, called Iran "an interesting place" controlled by "a very small clique of clerics."

"And the women and the young people don't agree with how it's being run," he insisted.

Iranian officials have been expressing heightened concern that if Washington decides to invade Iraq and maintain its military presence in Afghanistan, their country will end up sandwiched between two sizable contingents of US troops.

Iranian Defense Minister Rear-Admiral Ali Shamkhani aired these worries earlier Wednesday, when he warned Iranians to be prepared for the possibility of a US attack.

"The US government wants to reorganize the region and as a consequence Iran could constitute a target," Shamkhani said. "If the Americans are in both Afghanistan and Iraq, this represents a significant challenge."

Rumsfeld's prediction appeared to be at odds with earlier conclusions by the Central Intelligence Agency, which said "a slow transformation" of Iranian society was more likely than a violent cataclysm.

In an analysis sent to members of Congress last April and made public Monday, the CIA noted that the Iranian public was "losing faith in the ballot box as an engine of reform," because of hardball tactics by the conservative clergy. *AFP*

## US expects UN council vote on Iraq next week

WASHINGTON—The United States expects the UN Security Council to vote next week on a new resolution to resume Iraqi arms inspections as Paris and Washington moved closer to agreement on controversial wording that could lead to military action against Baghdad.

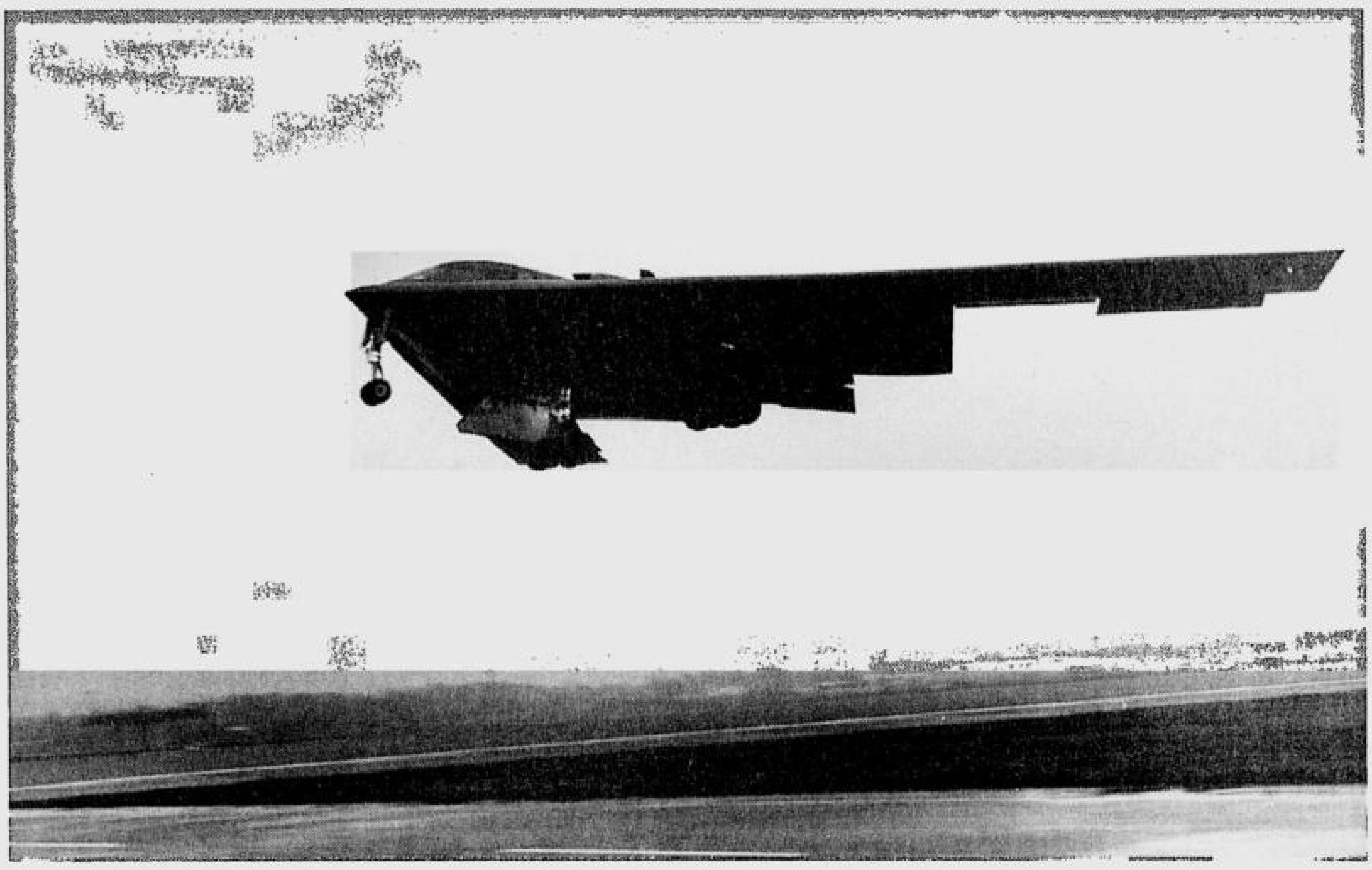
As top US and French officials attempted to narrow their remaining differences, US President George W. Bush reiterated his demands for a rigorous investigation of Iraq's suspected weapons programs when he met the United Nations' chief weapons inspector, Hans Blix, on Wednesday.

Washington says it is ready to give the arms inspectors time to do their work, seeking evidence of a suspected weapons program, once they return to Iraq after a four-year hiatus. But the United States is warning Baghdad that noncompliance will swiftly return the issue to the United Nations.

Iraq accused the United States of attempting to interfere with the inspectors' work, saying Bush's meeting with Blix showed Washington wanted to "impose their policy on Iraq and not follow the Security Council or the United Nations' rules."

The United States, which accuses Iraqi President Saddam Hussein of amassing weapons of mass destruction, wants a tough new UN resolution to force Iraq to disarm or face severe consequences, but France is wary about language that could lead to Washington taking unilateral military action.

In Washington, US Secretary of State Colin Powell said that he expected debate on the US resolution to wind up soon. *Reuters*



**A B2 Stealth bomber takes off from Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri for a training run to a bombing range in Alaska.** AFP

## US deploys B-2 bombers closer to Iraq

WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE, Missouri—The United States will deploy B-2 Stealth bombers closer to the Gulf region to increase the US firepower there amid mounting pressure on Iraq, a US Air Force commander said here Wednesday.

The Air Force's B-2 bomber force began practicing Tuesday for the deployment to the British Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia and an air base at Fairford in England, said Col. Doug Raaberg, commander of the 509 Bomb Wing.

He did not say how many of the $1.1-billion jets would be sent, but told reporters: "We will go when the president and the secretary of defense tasks us to do that," said Raaberg.

US President George W. Bush has said the United States will act unilaterally against Iraq if the United Nations does not take firm action to disarm Iraq and its leader Saddam Hussein.

Cloaked by their radar absorbing design, the B-2s would likely take the lead in any campaign to disarm Iraqi military defenses and knock out its communications.

"We will move this to a forward location so we can cycle these aircraft as rapidly as necessary," said the bomb wing commander.

Raaberg said work was underway to install five special climate controlled shelters for B-2s at Diego Garcia and Fairford. He said it takes 30 days to put up one of the $2.5 million shelters, which are used to maintain the aircraft's special skin.

"We want to take care of our combatant commander, give him the firepower he needs and the flexibility to do what he needs to do," said the commander.

Putting B-2s closer to the Gulf will enable US forces to fly 12 stealth bomber missions for every one that could be flown from Whiteman Air Force Base in the US mid-west, the military said.

In Anticipation of the forward deployment, the B-2 bomber wing is conducting a weeklong exercise that is designed to simulate deployments to Fairford and Diego Garcia.

On Thursday, B-2s will fly to simulated target areas in the United States, approximating the distances and flight times of missions that would be flown from the two forward bases, Raaberg said.

In past conflicts, the stealth bombers have operated exclusively from this base in the US heartland, launching strikes on targets continents away.

During the opening strikes of the war in Afghanistan, they flew 44 hours from Whiteman, the longest combat missions in aviation history.

They targeted Taliban and al-Qaida air defenses, air fields, early warning radar and surface to air missile sites, Raaberg said.

In all they flew 12 missions on the first four nights of the Afghan air campaign. *AFP*

## Russia slams North Korea on nuke arms program

MOSCOW—In a sharp change of course, Russia on Thursday accused North Korea of being insufficiently forthcoming about its alleged nuclear weapons program, the Interfax news agency reported.

The United States said earlier this month that North Korean officials acknowledged they had a nuclear weapons program during talks with visiting US Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly in Pyongyang on Oct. 3-5. US Undersecretary of State John Bolton then traveled to Russia to present Russian officials with evidence of the alleged uranium enrichment program.

Moscow reacted with caution, saying it would like to independently check the information before making any definite conclusions.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Losyukov said that Moscow had received an explanation from the North Koreans, Interfax reported. But he said it was insufficient.

"There is some ambiguity in the statements by North Korean representatives," Losyukov was quoted as saying in an interview with the news agency. "In our view, such ambiguity is very dangerous because it leads to mutual suspicions and can negatively affect the situation on the Korean peninsula."

But Losyukov said that the United States, too, had to present its position more clearly, "insofar as the Russian side has not yet received any convincing evidence of the existence of such a program." He said that North Korea, through diplomatic channels, had provided its version of the talks with the US assistant secretary of state and that there was no public admission that North Korea had continued its uranium enrichment program. *AP*

## WORLDBRIEFS

### Priest in sex raps reinstated

BOSTON—The top canon lawyer in the Boston archdiocese was reinstated after he was cleared of sex abuse accusations. Monsignor Michael Smith Foster was twice put on leave after charges of sex abuse, despite serious questions about his accuser's credibility. On Wednesday, Foster was restored to his post, according to an archdiocese statement. "Cardinal (Bernard) Law and his associates will work with Monsignor Foster in an effort to restore his good name," the statement said. Foster, who called the last two months "an ordeal," said he looked forward to celebrating Mass publicly and resuming his duties. *AP*

### Outrage over press

KATMANDU—Nepal's film community is angrily demanding action against the press after a budding 24-year-old actress killed herself over a nude photograph of her published in a tabloid. Shrisha Karki, a former model and television actress who was beginning to find jobs on the big screen, hanged herself on Oct. 13, four days after the newspaper printed the picture. The suicide has outraged the film community in the Himalayan kingdom, which tends to have puritanical views on nudity, and has even brought words of condemnation from the prime minister. People close to the actress said she was devastated by the photograph that appeared in the Jana Ashtha, or "People's Faith," a left-leaning weekly that is widely read for its exposes of official corruption. Her fiance was scandalized by the photo and, even though she tried to explain her side of the story, severed the relationship. The final straw, a colleague of the late actress said, was when Karki walked into a beauty salon. A woman working at the parlor told her, "You're in a well-covered dress today. It seems you're used to being naked." Karki stormed out and a few hours later her body was found hanging from the staircase of her home. Nearly 500 Nepalese film actors and producers have joined forces to demand action against the tabloid and its editor Kishor Shrestha, who has been in hiding since the suicide. *AP*

### Apec dress code

PHNOM PENH—Cambodia has warned the international media they must look good and men must wear ties while covering next week's Asean summit, officials said Thursday. "The media have to dress well and be good looking," said Chhum Socheat, a spokesperson from the information ministry. "They must not wear jeans." He said required dress for men would include long trousers, tie and jacket. "This is in order to have a good look—this is because our country is hosting the summit." The request appeared to be a step away from usual protocol for covering such events, with journalists sporting casual and comfortable attire, particularly in the tropics. However, in return for looking good, the Cambodia Daily earlier reported the information ministry will ensure the media access to telephone lines, fax machines and Internet connections. Cambodia has never hosted an international event of this magnitude before. *AFP*

## Cleric won't cooperate with Indon cops

JAKARTA—A radical Muslim preacher is willing to submit to questioning but will refuse to discuss with investigators his alleged links to terrorists blamed for the Bali bombings, his attorney said Thursday.

The cleric, Abu Bakar Bashir, is believed to be the spiritual leader of Jemaah Islamiah, a group on the UN list of terrorist organizations. It is the main suspect in the Oct. 12 attacks in Bali that killed nearly 200 people.

Bashir is being held at a police hospital in eastern Jakarta, where he is recovering from respiratory problems.

"Bashir is getting better, and he is ready for questioning," said his attorney, Ahmad Taufik.

"But the police won't get anything from him because he will keep silent," the lawyer said. "The police said that they have enough evidence, so we're asking them to prove their case. We ask them to show us anything they have."

Bashir is not a suspect in the Bali attacks. Instead, police have accused him of ordering a string of church bombings in 2000 that killed 19 people and plotting the assassination of President Megawati Sukarnoputri.

In a brief interview on Jakarta's Metro TV station, Bashir challenged Indonesia's security chiefs to vouch that his arrest was not the result of foreign pressure in the aftermath of the Bali bombings.

Bashir has denied any wrongdoing and claimed that he was being made a scapegoat.

"My detention is illegal. I will not accept it," Bashir said, following a meeting with the staff of Vice President Hamzah Haz. "Indonesia's Islamic society feels insulted by my detention."

On Wednesday, police released composite sketches of three suspects in the Bali bombings, but have yet to arrest anyone.

Bashir is said to have formulated Jemaah Islamiah's ideology of carving out an Islamic super-state in Southeast Asia—encompassing Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, and southern parts of Thailand the Philippines—while he was in exile in Malaysia in the 1980s.

Bashir's arrest on Oct. 18 was the most decisive action yet by the Indonesian government against suspected Islamic militants. But police have been forced to delay his questioning, after doctors ruled that the 64-year-old cleric was in poor health and should remain hospitalized. *AP*

**BASHIR**

## More Muslim homes in Australia raided

SYDNEY—Australian police and intelligence agents raided more Muslims' homes Thursday in search of terrorist suspects, brushing aside growing criticism of the five-day-old crackdown as heavy-handed.

The raids targeted homes around Melbourne, Australia's second biggest city, and came a day after police and agents of the Australian Security and Intelligence Organization (ASIO) conducted armed searches of several houses in Sydney and Perth, ABC radio and local Muslim leaders said.

A spokesperson for Attorney General Daryl Williams confirmed that the operation against suspected sympathizers of the radical Indonesian group Jemaah Islamiah were continuing, but declined to provide details.

Jemaah Islamiah (JI) is the main suspect behind the Oct. 12 bombing in Bali which killed nearly 200 people and Western intelligence agencies claim it is plotting more attacks in conjunction with the al-Qaida terrorist network.

Authorities here say some Australians have been trained by al-Qaida and they believe JI also has agents in the country.

The head of the Australian Arabic Council, Roland Jabbour, said he had received reports from members of his community that police had searched homes in a number of Melbourne suburbs on Thursday.

"We don't know why they've taken this Rambo-style approach," Jabbour told the Australian Associated Press in reference to the use of heavily armed agents in combat gear breaking into and searching family homes, sometimes before dawn.

"We find it totally unnecessary—terrorizing women and children and raiding different homes at any time of the day and night," he said.

The head of the Australian Council for Civil Liberties, Terry O'Gorman, also denounced the raids.

"I think having police turn up with drawn guns and in paramilitary gear in effect to take away computer gear, is a stunt," he said. *AFP*

# Trader selling underwear on spot arrested

TOKYO—Tokyo police said Thursday they arrested a Korean shopowner for selling used women's underwear because he did not have a license to sell second-hand goods.

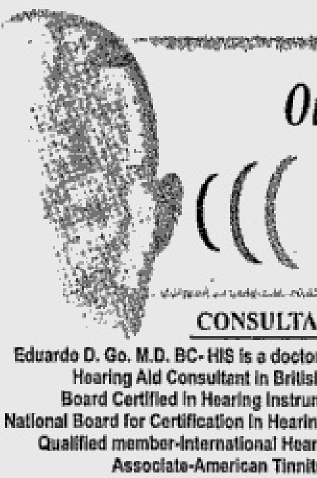
Final Fantasia, the shop belonging to 43-year-old Lee Kang-Sin, stood out from similar peddlers as women would come in, undress and sell their underwear on the spot, said police in the capital's trendy Shibuya district.

"There were probably some items for sale that were specially brought in by the sellers, but this shopkeeper's main point seemed to be that he sold the underwear women had been wearing up to that moment," said Shibuya police officer Tomohiro Abe.

From February to September this year, on five occasions Lee sold 11 items from four females, including a 17-year-old girl, who would undress for their customers, police said.

Lee set up an Internet site to attract customers and sellers, and managed a database of more than 1,800 junior and senior high school girls with their addresses, school names and mobile phone numbers, Jiji news reported.

AFP



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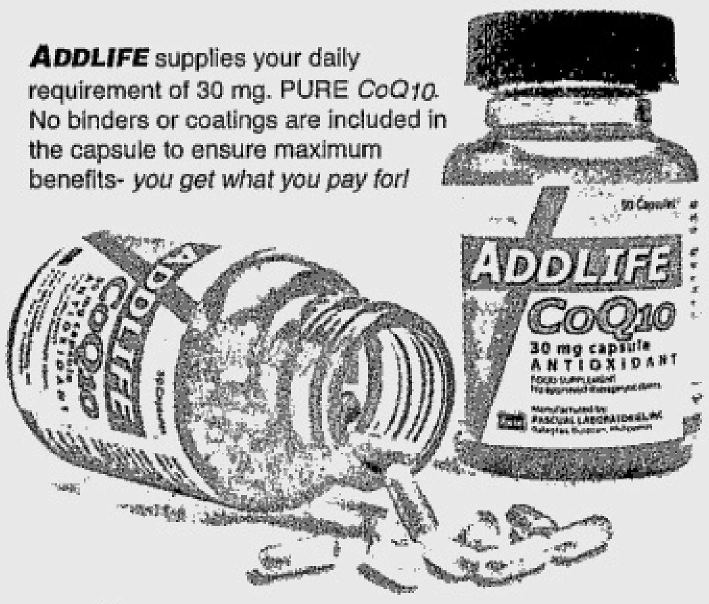

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## Sorsogon folk rally vs NPA killings

LEGAZPI CITY—"Go, ye . . . spread the word . . . tell the passersby . . . ! That in this little world, restless souls cry . . . continuously seek justice and peace! . . . " These words, printed in streamers and placards strewn in the town of Castilla, Sorsogon, reflect the mood for today's commemoration of All Saints' Day.

Mayor Rene Laurinaria himself spearheads an indignation rally of at least 500 relatives of victims of alleged senseless killings by the New People's Army in the town.

He said the rally is also the town's remembrance of the deaths of at least 100 residents allegedly from the NPA hands.

Laurinaria said this is part of their all-out war against the NPA, whose alleged "senseless killings brought about this outburst of the group."

Castilla's police blotter revealed that the killings started in June 1992. Most of the victims were suspected by the rebels as police informers and supporters. Three of them were police officers and one was a member of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit.

He disclosed that for years since he took office, peace and order in his fourth-class municipality has been stained with killings, kidnappings and massive extortion activities.

About 24 of Castilla's 34 barangays are allegedly controlled by the NPA, the mayor disclosed.

Worst, he said, is the summary public execution perpetrated by the NPA. "One victim was barangay councilor Homer Garcia from Cumadcad. He was brought to the plaza with his hands tied. Calling public attention, the NPAs stabbed him several times before he was finally shot to death. And imagine, he had nine kids who are still grieving," the angry Laurinaria said.

"I don't see the validity of their reasons anymore. We've been trying to understand insurgency, but most of their victims are civilians. How do we reconcile that?" he asked. *Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

## 3 cops hurt in mysterious grenade blast

**By Alex V. Pal**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

DUMAGUETE CITY—Three policemen were injured on Wednesday night after a mysterious explosion from an M-203 grenade triggered a series of blasts inside the police station in Guihulngan town, Negros Oriental.

The explosions caused a fire that razed to the ground the Guihulngan police station and the nearby Municipal Engineering's Office.

The injured policemen—PO3 Edgar Lazaro, SPO1 Mario Murillo and PO2 Benito Arances—were brought to the Silliman Medical Center in Dumaguete for treatment of shrapnel wounds.

Senior Supt. Drusillo Bolodo, Negros Oriental police director, immediately ordered a full investigation to determine who or what caused the M203 grenade explosion at about 8:20 p.m. inside the police station of Guihulngan, some 116 kilometers north of here.

Initial investigation disclosed that the M203 grenade came from the bandoleer of Lazaro, which was placed inside the radio room.

Reports said the grenade suddenly exploded, triggering a series of blasts from ammunitions inside the police station.

A fire then broke out but the policemen on duty had already scampered to different sections, thinking they were under attack. Damage was placed at P1.7 million.

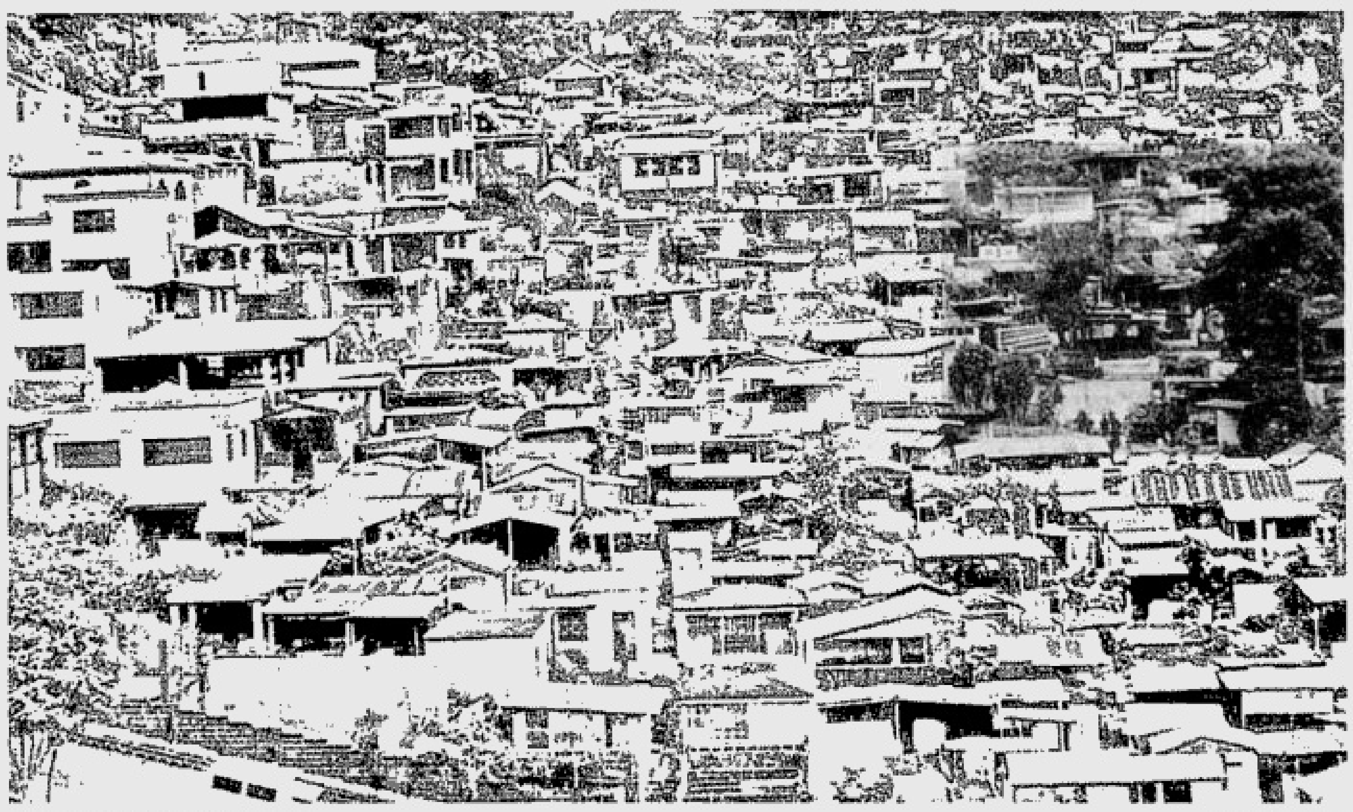
In a report to Bolodo, Senior Insp. Reynaldo Andot, Guihulngan police chief, said they were able to save 12 M-16 rifles, one M-14 rifle, a cal.-30 machine gun, a base radio, two .45-cal. pistols and a typewriter.

This was the second blow suffered by the Guihulngan police in two months.

Last Aug. 27, Senior Insp. Ramil Viscaya, then Guihulngan police chief, and his two men—SPO4 Modesto Lagusad and SPO4 Jaime Provechado—were killed after they were allegedly shot by troops from the Army's 66th Infantry Battalion.

The policemen and the Army soldiers were responding to an earlier ambuscade by New People's Army rebels in the same barangay, which killed Senior Insp. Leopito Gallego, police chief nearby Vallehermoso town and his driver SPO3 Cipriano Saludes.

The soldiers reportedly mistook the policemen for a band of NPA guerillas responsible for the ambush-slay of Gallego and Saludes.



**CEMETERY CLUTTER** TOOTS SOBERANO
**Tombs and mausoleums compete for space at the crowded Baguio City cemetery along Naguilian Road.**

## 43 hurt in dispersal of bus workers' strike

**By Ronaldo Dizon and Russell Arador**
*PDI Central Luzon Desk*

**TARLAC CITY—At least 43 people were hurt in what striking workers of the Philippine Rabbit Bus Lines (PRBL) here described as a "violent dispersal" of their picket line by security personnel of the bus firm on Wednesday night.**

PRBL security personnel swooped down on close to 100 protesters to force them to abandon their picket line at the exit gate of the Rabbit terminal here.

When they tried to set up another picket line at the entrance gate, they were forced to disperse, the protesters said.

Reports here said Emil Paragas of the human rights group Karapatan suffered from a cut in his head and bruises in his left arm. Paragas' group was helping the striking PRBL employees.

Paragas said he will file charges of physical injuries against members of the PRBL security personnel who hit him with rattan sticks.

Conrado Ignacio Jr., officer-in-charge of the PRBL security force, was hit by a stone thrown by a protester after he ordered their dispersal. Ignacio's left jaw had cuts and bruises.

Paragas said the police did not intervene when the PRBL security men started attacking them.

"It's difficult to intervene in that situation," said Chief Insp. Eugenio Sapasap, deputy police chief.

He said they had strict orders from Mayor Genaro Mendoza to "ensure peace and order."

In a statement, Rivo Nisce, PRBL general operations manager, belied reports the protest crippled the firm's entire operations.

"This is only black propaganda, an outright lie, because all our buses remained plying their regular routes," Nisce said.

The union earlier claimed that the PRBL's operations in Tarlac, Metro Manila, Bataan, the cities of Angeles and San Fernando in Pampanga, Pangasinan, Abra, Baguio City, Laoag City and Vigan, Ilocos Sur were affected by the strike.

A management source, however, said the firm is operating only at around "15-percent capacity" due to the strike.

Nisce also claimed that most of those dispersed on Wednesday night were not employed by PRBL.

He said these "outsiders," who are members of local labor groups, commandeered and damaged one of the company's buses.

The mass action stemmed from the alleged inaction of the management on the demands of the PRBL union.

In a statement, the PRBL union said they were demanding the reinstatement of six union members and the implementation of their collective bargaining agreement.

Natividad Nisce, PRBL president, said the six union members had been dismissed because they committed work-related offenses.

"The dismissed employees, while still employed with us, have caused losses to our operations," Nisce said.

The dismissed workers, she said, wanted to return and were trying to get sympathy from their former co-employees.

Nisce said they were planning to retrench more workers if the company incurred more operational losses.

## Former Abu Sayyaf lair now resettlement area

**By Julie S. Alipala**
*PDI Mindanao Bureau*

MALUSO, Basilan—Two former strongholds of the Abu Sayyaf in this province have become resettlement areas for residents displaced by the war against the bandit group.

Provincial Social Welfare and Development officer Eduardo Baird told the INQUIRER that the Kalahi Project has earmarked P3 million to build 200 low-cost houses in Upper Mahayahay, and P2.2 million for 108 houses in Mount Mahadji.

Sixty structures now stand in Upper Mahayahay while 50 others are in Mount Mahadji. A structure is about 60 by 70 meters with iron sheet roofing and "good" lumber for wall, foundation posts and flooring.

Baird said each house costs P20,000.

Mahayahay was once controlled by Isnilon Hapilon and his three brothers while Mount Mahadji was home to Abu Sayyaf leader Khadaffy Janjalani and his spokesperson Aldam Tilao alias Abu Sabaya.

"Now, it's no longer theirs. It is now with the people and we are doing our best to bring development in these areas with the help of other line agencies," said Col. Ben Dolorfino, chief of the 2nd Marine Brigade.

"These two known terrorist lairs are now home to our displaced people," said Maluso Mayor Sakib Salajin, who also assured communication facilities and basic services for the newly-established communities.

School buildings and a mosque will also be built in the two areas.

Salajin said several teachers want to be assigned in these communities.

Upper Mahayahay was the center of vegetable production six years ago. "The place supplied different vegetables not only for the Maluso people but to the other municipalities in Basilan as well. But the area was abandoned because the Abu Sayyaf took over the place," Salajin said.

Muktarian Nasirin, 30, said she farmed the place for over 10 years, "but I left this place in 1999 when several armed men raided the houses of the people and kept on asking for money."

Nasirin said she and her husband Gappang decided to transfer to nearby Maluso town proper because of the bandits' harassment.

"But I am happy now because we were able to get back our piece of land, and we have our own small house here," Nasirin said.

Still, Nasirin is afraid that once the soldiers leave the place, the bandits will return.

Mount Mahadji was the place of terror and violence on March 20, 2000 when more than 20 school teachers, including the Claretian priest Rhoel Gallardo, and more than 70 children were taken as hostages by Sabaya and Janjalani.

"Two teachers were beheaded in that place," said Dolorfino and several teachers were reportedly abused. More than 50 soldiers were also killed while trying to rescue the hostages," Dolorfino said.

Fr. Gallardo was also killed by the bandits.

"But it is now a beautiful place to live in. They have water, they have a communal farm," he said.

## *Garden of peace launched in Subic*

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—In support of the intensified campaign against terrorism, members of religious groups and local officials launched on Wednesday the "Global Garden of Peace" in the former United States naval magazine area here.

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez said the garden, which will be located at the foot of a mountain that once housed the bunkers for war implements of the US Navy, would promote global peace and unity.

"When you plant flowers you celebrate life. We might not remember Subic but this garden will be well-remembered a thousand of years from now, just like the hanging garden of Babylon during the time of King Nebuchadnezzar," Alvarez, who was guest during the launch, said.

Alvarez considered the creation of the garden as an immediate solution to global warming.

"The only way we can relieve ourselves from this grave global environmental threat is to build this botanical garden," he said.

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Felicito Payumo said the garden will become a new tourist destination inside the freeport.

He said the garden is envisioned to be the most comprehensive garden park in the country with over 20 theme gardens.

"From being a naval magazine area, this site will be converted into a beautiful paradise that will draw more tourists in the near future," he said.

The botanical garden will house species that include herbs, ferns, palm trees, cacti and orchids.

The garden will have its own aviary, scented garden, a botanic museum, movie house, restaurants and a library.

Alvarez said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources will donate rare and exotic species of plants to the botanical garden.

Before the launch, at least 500 members of religious groups and officials from Zambales and Bataan held a three-kilometer "March for Peace and Unity" here.

John Teruel, founder and "Patriarch" of the religious group, Apostolic Catholic Church, said it must be God's wish to transform the former US military war arsenal "from a garden of war to a garden of peace." *Allan Macatuno and Ansbert Joaquin, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

## Hundreds stranded in Batangas

BATANGAS CITY—After standing for a long time under the sun to make it through the three security guards checking passengers' luggage at the pier entrance here, and enduring another line to buy a ship ticket, about 250 Calapan-bound passengers were shocked to find out the boat they were about to board was already overloaded.

Rowena Ponce, a saleslady from Cavite City was here as early as 5 a.m. She bought a ship ticket and was supposed to board MV Rubi I at 1 p.m. When boarding time came, she, along with many passengers, went out to the vessel ramp area only to find out that the boat was no longer taking passengers as it was already overloaded. She could not go back to Cavite anymore as she had bought the ticket with her last money.

Another passenger, Chita Galicia, of Fernando Air Base, Lipa City, was also in the pier as early as 6 a.m. When the tickets for the Supercat fastcraft ran out, she opted to buy the ticket for MV Rubi I scheduled to leave the pier at 1 p.m.

"The MV Ruby I people would not take us in," Galicia said, "It was already overloaded with people and vehicles. They should not have sold tickets to us if they would not take us in. We waited for so long without breakfast and lunch and this is what we get for buying their ticket."

At the pier's vessel ramp area, about 200 more passengers with tickets for MV Ruby I were denied entry to the ship owned by the Alexis Shipping Lines.

Paul Pangilinan, a Makati City employee, had been in the pier since Wednesday afternoon, waiting to board one of Montenegro ships bound for San Jose, Occidental Mindoro.

But as of yesterday afternoon, no boat was seen going to San Jose. "I think this situation is telling me one thing," he said, "I should start swimming now if I want to get home."

Jeremiah San Pedro, an employee of Montenegro Shipping Lines, said they have a ship bound for San Jose every 6 p.m. Mondays to Saturdays. "But the schedule of ships bound for Abra de Ilog depends on the waves," he said.

The pier was overflowing with passengers bound for Mindoro since Wednesday. Oddette Daria, passenger terminal supervisor, said about 7,000 passengers were already at the terminal as early as Wednesday morning. The figures doubled yesterday. "But the number of the passengers for this year's halloween rush was only half of last year's passengers. I think the bomb threats scared them," Daria said. *Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

## ROUNDUP

### Mayon alert up

LEGAZPI CITY—The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology raised alert level 1 on Mayon Volcano, which continued to be restive after an ash explosion on Oct. 11. Ed Villacorte, science research specialist, explained that alert level 1 is meant to call attention to the increased volcanic activities, specifically an increased likelihood of steam-driven or ash explosions to occur with little or no warning. Villacorte advised the public to refrain from entering the six-kilometer-radius permanent danger zone, especially within the southeast sector where volcanic flows, falling and rolling debris, may be produced from a possible explosion.

*Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Bureau*

### Inmates flee

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Two inmates detained on illegal drugs charges escaped from the Tarlac municipal jail on Sunday, reports here said. Police said Louie Peralta, 30, and Garnel Bugasto, 26, destroyed the steel bars of the cell's iron bars.

*Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

### Fire hits Pagasa

CABANATUAN CITY—A 20-minute fire destroyed several pieces of equipment of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration here on Saturday. Efren Ingalla of Pagasa said he saw a thick smoke from their radio room at 4 p.m. and immediately called the fire department here. Arson investigators said faulty electrical wiring could have caused the fire.

*Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

### Gov't offices robbed

OLONGAPO CITY—Two city government offices here lost at least P107,600 in cash and office equipment to robbers last week. Police said the burglars broke into the offices of the public utility department and civil registry and took valuables from the employees' drawers. Among those taken by the suspects were P30,400 cash and digital cameras, compact discs and small appliances.

*Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

# EU says Joma a terrorist

From page A1

in Utrecht, the Netherlands.

Sison also told the INQUIRER that the Philippine government was killing the peace talks by lobbying for his deportation or extradition from the Netherlands, where he and other NDF officials are living in self-exile.

In Malacañang, the President's spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the administration would have to "evaluate" whether the peace negotiations could "still lead anywhere given this new factor that the EU and US have declared them terrorist organizations."

Asked what would make the Philippine government decide that the talks would be useless, Tiglao said: "It's quite complicated. The government, especially the adviser on the peace process (Eduardo Ermita), is seriously studying what would be the appropriate stance."

The Philippine government suspended peace talks with the NDF last year after communist hit squads killed two legislators and other local politicians. Since then, both sides have been holding backroom talks to try to revive the negotiations.

Ms Macapagal has declared the communist insurgents terrorists, and her administration does not negotiate with terrorists as a matter of policy.

The US state department listed the CPP and the NPA as "foreign terrorist organizations" in August. But the EU does not include the CPP in its terrorist list, which was adopted on Oct. 28 but published in its Official Journal only on Wednesday.

Ople said that in light of the terrorist listing, Sison and his known allies now faced an increased risk of expulsion from the Netherlands, which had earlier declared the CPP, NDF and NPA as terrorist groups.

As for NDF peace panel chair Luis Jalandoni, a Dutch citizen, Ople said he could not be expelled by the Netherlands but could be extradited under a treaty between Manila and The Hague.

"The diplomatic and political pressure (should) bring them back and end the decades-old struggle," Ople said, adding:

"This will severely limit the NPA's capability to pursue more terrorist acts."

On the EU list, the NPA is cited along with the Palestine Liberation Front, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Also included in the list is the communist group Shining Path or Sendero Luminoso of Latin America, as well as the Indonesian-based Jemaah Islamiah, which is suspected of involvement in the deadly bomb attack last month in Bali.

The EU list is to be submitted to the United Nations in line with the UN resolution on the fight against international terrorism.

"We thank the six countries with whom we have conducted a dialogue for allowing us to state our case," Ople said.

The President sent Ople and her advisers Norberto Gonzales and Ermita to Europe last month to discuss the case of the CPP-NPA-NDF with the European countries. The top-level mission met with officials in Germany, Belgium, Sweden, Spain and Denmark.

Ople said that since EU decisions on counter-terrorism were based on consensus or a "common position," the decision on Sison and the NPA meant that this was adopted unanimously.

SISON

He said there was apparently no consensus reached on the CPP because the Philippine government itself considered it a legal party following the repeal of the Anti-Subversion Law.

The Spanish government, for instance, informed Ople that it could recognize the CPP and the NDF as terrorist groups only if the Philippines would refuse to negotiate peace with them.

"The communists must now seriously discuss peace. The time is past for stalling while regrouping to strike at peaceful citizens," Ople said.

"We want them to lay down their arms and transform themselves into a peaceful political party capable of competing in the constitutional arena, in peaceful democratic elections," he said.

## Capitulation

But Sison said Ople and other officials were using the United States to force the NDF to sign a final peace agreement drafted by the Philippine government.

"This bunch of traitors wants capitulation," he said, adding that the Philippine government's peace panel sent him as early as November last year a draft final agreement, which he had merely ignored.

He said the government wanted the NDF to surrender its forces and arms without addressing the social, economic and political reforms on the peace agenda.

Sison said the Macapagal administration was anxious to clinch the final peace agreement with the NDF because of the supposed looming expiration of the President's term.

"They know that Gloria will be a lame-duck President after December," he said. She will not be able to boast that she pacified the countryside."

He also said there were many obstacles to the US request, coursed through the Netherlands, to list him and the CPP as terrorist.

He said the opposition of just one member of the European Council would defeat this request.

The NDF leader said he would also contest his terrorist listing in the Netherlands all the way to the European courts.

He said the first hearing of his civil rights case against the Dutch government protesting his classification as a terrorist would be heard in the second week of this month.

Ople said he expected Sison to take legal steps to fight his expulsion from the Netherlands.

Asked if Sison would be expelled by Dutch authorities, the foreign secretary said: "You know, there is rule of law in the Netherlands. Mr. Sison is capable of legal delaying action. He has very good lawyers. But he can only delay this."

## Complication

Tiglao admitted that the Macapagal administration could not easily drop the peace talks because its predecessors had labored to end the 33-year-old communist insurgency through negotiations.

"There's a complication," he said. "In the case of the (bandit group) Abu Sayyaf, there have never been actual negotiations with (it) before. But in the case of the CPP, this administration as well as previous ones have formally undertaken peace negotiations with (it)."

Tiglao said the government could still use the peace negotiations to "reach out" to CPP-NPA members and "show them that we are sincere in ending this conflict."

"We hope that (the EU's) move would make the CPP realize that the world is against terrorism, even of the Marxist-Leninist type," he added. *With reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Reuters*

# A day of grieving for victims of toxic waste

From page A1

Crizel died in February 2000 just as American troops resumed the holding of large-scale war games in Luzon for the second year.

Hailed as a "toxic warrior," Crizel called attention to the need to rid the US bases of harmful substances.

She did so through her crayon drawings that were made into cards. The cards have been raising money for a children's medical fund, according to the People's Task Force for Bases Clean Up.

Many more were remembered in Wednesday's rites.

The ceremony has been held annually since 1997 to remember toxic waste victims.

Per the task force's latest monitoring report, at least 183 people have died around Clark in Pampanga and 70 others from Subic in Zambales. They have died of various forms of cancer, nervous and reproductive systems disorders, kidney problems, miscarriages or birth defects, the report said.

## Wellstone remembered

Wednesday's rites also honored the late US Sen. Paul Wellstone, who championed the cause of Filipino toxic waste victims in the US Senate.

The senator, his wife, a daughter and three staff members were killed in a plane crash on Oct. 25.

The senator had written an amendment to the US Department of Defense's authorization bill. It required the department to disclose environmental information to the public and to cooperate in the interpretation of information.

His intention was to "make nations such as the Philippines complete environmental studies to tell them exactly what has been left behind," Wellstone said in his speech before the 1999 International Grassroots Summit on Military Bases Cleanup in Washington, D.C.

The bill was eventually weakened, however, and limited the scope of the information turnover to the former Subic Naval Base in Olongapo City, Bataan and Zambales.

The task force said the bill exempts all other base withdrawals around the world from any information disclosure, including Clark in Pampanga.

WOMEN offer candles to victims of toxic waste during Wednesday's prayer rally in Mabalacat, Pampanga. DENNIS SABANGAN

Several studies, two of which were state-funded, confirmed the varying presence of hazardous, toxic and persistent substances in the soil and water of the two former bases.

Wellstone's death, the task force said, was a "great loss" to the bases cleanup lobby in the United States.

## Best evidence

At the rites, 68-year-old Braulio Padillare said his body carried the best evidence of "injustice."

After 35 years of replacing the asbestos sheets in the engine rooms of US warships on a daily basis, Padillare contracted asbestosis, a severe lung ailment.

More than 3,000 Subic shipyard workers are reportedly afflicted with the same disease.

"(We come together every year) to seek physical and moral strength for those still fighting to live more days and fortitude for their caregivers," he said.

For Padillare, All Souls' Day has become an occasion to come to terms with the reality of dying.

"We all die but in our case, it's an unjust way of dying because we only wanted to earn by working in the base (Subic). We ended up losing our health," he said.

Joylyn Manalese said she joined the occasion to find more courage.

Through the Sama-Samang Ugnayan ng mga Pamilya Biktima ng Toxic Waste sa Clark, Manalese and her husband have found support while caring for their child Jeremy.

The year-old Jeremy has a big lump on the back of his head and was diagnosed as having Kasavach Meritt Syndrome, a rare form of cancer.

Manalese said she conceived Jeremy while working at the Peninsula Garments, which is near Clark's former motor pool. The family also lived at the Clark Air Base Command (Cabcom) evacuation center, which was closed after studies confirmed the presence of mercury and other heavy metals in water wells.

At the garments factory, Manalese said she and her fellow workers suffered stomach trouble from drinking tap water. The management, she said, replaced the supply with bottled purified water.

She has since left work and is devoting her time to caring for Jeremy. The boy needs regular chemotherapy.

The United States has steadfastly refused demands for a cleanup of Clark and Subic and for medical support to residents made ill by exposure to toxic substances.

# Hope . . .

From page A1

Day) is rather awkward for me," Ramil says. For one, he has no tomb to visit, so he only lights a candle on the altar.

The same anxiety pervades some 150 sons and daughters throughout northwestern Mindanao region who have lost a parent or two as a result of involuntary disappearances, mostly related to the government's counter-insurgency drive.

According to records of the Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearances (FIND), a human rights group, in Western Mindanao, a total of 139 cases of involuntary disappearances have so far been documented, and only 33 bodies have been exhumed and their identities successfully traced.

For the relatives of the rest of the victims, like Ramil Cubol, they just have to bear every day the anxiety of waiting. And the feeling builds up on occasions like All Souls' Day.

## Suzana's case

Suzana Acuram, 53, of Ocapan, San Miguel, Zamboanga del Sur, will also be lighting candles for her husband Jaime and son Pacifico.

She lost her loved ones on Sept. 27, 1985 while they were fleeing from their village, which was the scene of an armed confrontation between NPA rebels and government troops.

Acuram told FIND that her family, together with a number of villagers, were scampering for safety when government troops met them along the way. She recalled a military officer ordering all male evacuees to go with them for questioning.

Jaime and Pacifico, along with four other farmers, were brought to the nearest military camp.

The following day, the wives and families of the farmers sought them out at the camp. Along the way, they saw the body of one of the farmers, identified as Wello Nalam.

At the camp, soldiers told the anxious relatives that their loved ones had already been released. "As proof, they showed us release papers that bore signatures (of the farmers)," Acuram said. "But how come they were not able to come back to us?"

For Ramil Cubol, he cannot rest until he finds out what really happened to his father. The long wait for news has created nightmares for him.

"Once, while taking an examination during my college years, I was halted by the sudden thought of my father. Today, I still cannot help but ask, '*Aha na kaha siya karon?*'(Where could he be)?"

"Who would not want to wish that my good father be alive and well today? But at each passing time, I have slowly come to terms with the possibility of one day seeing my father's remains," Ramil sadly said. "That way, I am certain of his true fate and secure in the thought that he has finally rested in peace."

"I have stopped counting the years since they were gone," Acuram said meekly of her lost loved ones.

"I sometimes feel like I have completely lost them so in a way I am bereaved. What seems not right, however, is that I am in a continual state of mourning."

Despite the state of limbo, Acuram still nurtures a strong sense of optimism about her husband and son: "I am still hopeful of their eventual return."

# Promise of a new job ended with a blast

From page A1

a jeepney driver, and Matilde Bon. The elder Bon barely made enough to put food on the table and send his children to school.

The situation worsened when Ponciano died of heart failure only last August.

Frederick recalled: "(Fernando) had always said he wanted to support Myrna, our youngest sibling, through college because of her good grades in high school. And he was always close to children. He loved kids."

## Serious student

Frederick said Fernando took his studies seriously and worked hard to earn above-average marks at the Camarines Sur Polytechnic Colleges, where he took a diploma course in refrigeration and air-conditioning technology.

When the two brothers shared a room at a boarding house in Naga City when they were still studying, Fernando served as his older brother's conscience.

"He would chide me about sleeping late and not studying enough. When I came home late, he would pester me about where I had come from," Frederick said.

Arguments between the two brothers were frequent, but the conflicts would quickly be resolved. "He was really so kind. He never drank a lot and never had a girlfriend because the family was his only priority."

Frederick said Fernando started that fateful Friday full of hope and promise that his new job would at least partially ease his family's financial woes.

"It was his first day at work and he was really looking forward to it," Frederick said.

In fact, the two brothers were supposed to go home together. But Frederick elected instead to join his coworkers for some drinks at a nearby videoke bar.

"If I had talked to him just before he left for home, I could have asked him to come with me and he would never have boarded that bus," he said.

But Fernando seemed eager to get home and went ahead.

It was likely at the Muñoz public market that Fernando boarded Golden Hi-way Transit Bus No. 0271. Around ten minutes later, the bus erupted in a hail of metal, glass and around 10 pounds of TNT.

Bon, who was sitting near the rear of the bus, died instantly. And so did his hopes and dreams for a better life.

"This has been a bad year for the family. Now we have two of our loved ones to visit this coming Nov. 1," said Frederick, fighting back tears.

The loss will become even more difficult to bear at Christmastime. "This Christmas will be a sad one because it will be the first time my father and brother will not be here."

"We have no money to pay the funeral homes because we are poor. We are appealing to concerned government agencies and the President to please help us," said Frederick.

"We have yet to recover financially from the death of our father, and now this," he added.

He said he was concerned about his mother, who had yet to see Fernando's body several days after the bus bombing. "She might not be able to take it."

Turning his thoughts to the bombing, Frederick turned angry. He called on law enforcement officials "to immediately arrest" the suspected bombers.

"They should at least be caught and prosecuted for what they did to my brother. What happened to him was too much. He was innocent of any crime and he was too much a kind person for something like this to happen to him," Frederick said.

# NBI probes bomb suspect's escape

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The National Bureau of Investigation has started its own investigation into the escape of suspected bomber Abdul Basit Usman from police custody.

Silverio Sanchez, NBI director for Central Mindanao, who arrived here on Wednesday to lead the probe team, told reporters that he wanted to get as many angles as possible to really get to the bottom of the case.

The team will get the side of the Sarangani 1206th Provincial Mobile Group, which took custody of the suspect, as well as those of the City Prosecutor's Office and the local court.

On Tuesday, Philippine National Police chief Director General Hermogenes Ebdane came here to get first-hand information regarding the controversial escape of Usman.

But instead of imposing disciplinary action on the local police, Ebdane blamed the court for the delay in the issuance of an arrest warrant and commitment order against the suspect.

City Prosecutor Andres Lorenzo chided the police for passing the buck to the court. He said his office had already done its part by filing the case before the court.

The police, he said, should have secured a commitment order from the court to send Usman to jail. He claimed that he was not aware of any petition filed by the police asking the court to issue the commitment order.

Lorenzo castigated the police for presenting Usman to President Macapagal-Arroyo on July 23 although formal charges were not yet filed against him in court.

The police filed the amended charges, which included the name of Usman in the case of multiple murder and multiple frustrated murder before the court on Aug. 16.

Usman's name was not in the original arrest warrant and charge sheet filed against the April 21 bombing suspects. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

**MYSTERIES OF THE LIGHT**
Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin leads the first public recitation of the five new mysteries of the rosary at the Edsa Shrine.

VAL HANDUMON

# Spirits or ghosts? Church draws line

**From page A1**

the executive secretary of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines wants all concerned sectors to stop cashing in on the dead.

Still, Msgr. Hernando Coronel wants matters clear: "We are not against Halloween, only against the depiction of the dead as scary. Our nomenclature is 'spirits,' not 'ghosts.'"

Coronel also said that instead of using the dead to scare one another during Halloween, people should go down on their knees and pray for their dearly departed.

"We should not be afraid of the dead, of our beloved ones who have passed away," he said in a pre-Halloween interview.

Coronel pointed out that the Church believed in spirits, but not in "ghosts" that elicited fear.

"Before the Second Vatican Council, we believed in the Holy Ghost. We called the Holy Spirit the Holy Ghost. But since people are afraid of ghosts, this was changed. (Now we say) we believe in the spirit of the Holy Spirit," he said.

He went on to explain that in the world of the spirits, there were good spirits (as the angels) and evil spirits (as Satan and his devils).

But for all that, the Church draws the line on the practice of the occult, Coronel said.

"This is against Catholicism," he said, adding that if one practiced the occult, one did not trust in God or in God's providence enough.

He urged the faithful to continue praying and trusting in God, particularly concerning "matters of the spirit."

Coronel noted that fear of the dead persisted even during the observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.

"What is emphasized is that the dead are to be feared," he said. "But in our faith, death is a chapter in life. Death is the passageway to the afterlife."

Still, he acknowledged that there were spirits "not at rest," particularly when their demise was quick and unexpected.

But what they need are prayers, not fear, from the living, he said.

# Asian vote buoys RP bid for seat in Security Council

**From page A1**

Macapagal-Arroyo," Ople said.

The last time the country had a seat in the council was in 1982, when Carlos Romulo was foreign secretary.

"Given the central role being played by the Security Council on the global war against terror, Philippine membership would not only provide important opportunities in its own fight against terrorism but will also recognize the regional leadership of the country," Ople said.

He said the country was expected to take up the cudgels for Asian countries, especially the still developing nations of the continent.

"This reflects the confidence that Asian countries have in the ability of the Philippines to face national and international challenges," he said.

Ople paid tribute to the efforts of Yuchengco, the country's permanent representative to the United Nations, and his deputy, Ambassador Enrique Manalo.

"Ambassador Yuchengco has expressed his desire to return to private life by the end of the year. The council seat would be his legacy to the country," Ople said.

# Until end, Marine thinking of others

**From page A1**

when the Daguinotas family held a reunion in Tampilisan town.

After the reunion, Allan left with a promise to Eluna, his longtime girlfriend, that he would return in December to marry her.

Allan's body was brought back here from Zamboanga City, escorted by 15 fellow Marines who took turns standing as guards during the wake. He was buried only Thursday at the public cemetery as it took a while for his relatives to arrive from Zamboanga del Sur and Zamboanga Sibugay provinces. *Lullie A. Micabalo, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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|---|---|---|
| *ESVICEE SYR 100MG/5ML 120 ML | 86.00 | 77.50 |
| POTEN CEE SF TAB 500MG | 2.70 | 2.50 |
| POTEN CEE SYR 100MG/5ML 120ML | 100.00 | 95.00 |
| POTEN CEE SYR 100MG/5ML 60ML | 69.75 | 66.25 |
| POTEN CEE TAB 500MG | 2.70 | 2.50 |

Vit B1 100mg, vit B12 50ug, vit B6 5mg.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *PHAREX VIT B1+B6+B12 TAB | 2.00 | 1.90 |

Vit B1 250mg, vit B12 1,000ug, vit B6 250mg

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|---|---|---|
| *POLYNERV - 1000 CAP | 11.25 | 10.25 |

Vit B1 500mg, vit B12 1,000ug, vit B6 250mg

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|---|---|---|
| *POLYNERV - 500 TAB | 18.25 | 16.50 |

Ca pantothenate 5mg, folic acid 250ug, 1- lysine mono HCl 200mg, nicotinamide 20mg, vit A 2,500iu, vits B1 2.5mg, B12 4ug, B2 2.5mg, B6 2.5mg, C 60mg, D 500iu.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *MACROBEE W/LYSINE SYR 50MG 120ML | 117.75 | 106.00 |

ENAT CAP 400IU Regular: P 16.50 Now! P 13.25

AMARGOZIN Ampalaya Cap 500MG Regular: P 5.50 Now! P 5.25

GLUTAPHOS TAB Regular: P 4.40 Now! P 4.20

CIRCULAN Regular: P15.00 Now! P 13.50

REVICON FTE Tab In Bottle Regular: P 3.55 Now! P 3.25

ADD LIFE COQ10 Cap 30 MG Regular: P 18.50 Now! P 17.50

POTEN CEE SYRUP 100mg/ 5ml 120mL Regular: P 100.00 Now! P 95.00

Vits B1 300mg, B6 100mg, B12 100ug

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|---|---|---|
| *MEGANERV - 300 CAP | 10.25 | 9.25 |

Vits E 200mg, B6 10mg, B12 10ug, nicotinamide 10mg, vits B1 10mg, B2 5mg, C 50mg, Ca pantothenate 5mg, Fe sulfate 54.4mg. (equiv to 20mg elemental Fe)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *MEGANERV - E CAP | 8.70 | 7.85 |

Dicalcium phosphate 200mg, glumatic acid 325mg, thiamine HCl 5mg, vit B12 10ug.

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| GLUTAPHOS TAB | 4.40 | 4.20 |

Siberian ginseng 100mg, lecithin 20 mg, vit C 75mg. vit E 75mg, other vit, minerals & essential substances

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|---|---|---|
| LEGINSOL - E CAP | 14.50 | 13.00 |

Vits A 5000iu, B1 5mg, B2 3mg, B6 nicotinamide 1.5mg, B12 5ug, D2 200iu, E Iiu, nicotinamide 20mg, Ca pantothenate 10mg, dibasic Ca phoshate 100mg, cupric sulfate 2.5mg, Fe, elemental (as ferrous sulfate 30mg) 10mg, Mg sulfate 2.5mg, manganese sulfate 3.6mg, K sulfate 650ug, methionine 5mg, lysine HCl 2.5 mg, Inositol 5mg, debitterd Brewer's yeast 25mg.

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| REVICON FTE TAB FLEX (FOIL) | 3.55 | 3.25 |
| REVICON FTE TAB IN BOT | 3.55 | 3.25 |

Robovites Kids' Acidophyllus: Acidophyllus 25mg. Robovites Multivitamins Plus Zinc: Vits A 2500iu, D 400iu, B1 1.05mg, B2 1.2mg, B6 1.05mg, B12 4.5ug folic acid 200ug, nicotinamide 5mg, vits E 10iu, C 50mg, chelated Zn 500ug. Robovites Kids' Appetite Boosters Lysine 30mg, vits B1 5mg, B12 12ug, B6 2.5mg.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ROBOVITES TAB KIDS C 30 | 131.50 | 124.75 |
| ROBOVITES TAB KIDSAPBSTR LEM 30 | 161.25 | 153.00 |
| ROBOVITES TAB MULTIVIT 3FLVR 30 | 162.25 | 154.00 |
| ROBOVITES TAB MULTIVIT OR 30 | 159.75 | 151.75 |
| ROBOVITES TAB MULTIVIT GPE 30 | 159.75 | 151.75 |
| ROBOVITES TAB MULTIVIT SBRRY 30 | 159.75 | 151.75 |

**FOR LIVER DISEASES**

Milk thisle 100mg, lecithin 100mg (phosphatidyl choline)

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|---|---|---|
| LIVOGARD TAB 30 | 215.25 | 204.50 |

**FOR WEIGHT CONTROL**

Liphosan

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| EXO FAT FTE TAB 500MG | 20.00 | 19.00 |

**FOR ANEMICS**

Vit A palmitate 2,500iu, vit D3 5ug, vit B1 nitrate 1.1mg, vit B2 1.8mg, vit B6 1.9mg, vit B12 2ug, nicotinamide 20mg, Ca pantothenate 5mg, biotin 200ug, folic acid 200ug, vit C 30mg, Ca 100mg, Fe fumarate 5mg, Mg sulfate 50mg, vit E 10.5iu, copper sulphate 2mg, K iodide 150ug, manganese sulphate 10mg, Zn sulphate 16mg.

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| LEGINSOL OB CAP | 7.40 | 6.75 |

Fe fumarate 100mg(equiv to elem Fe 33mg), vits A 5,000iu, D 400iu, C 60mg, B1 2mg, B2 2mg, B6 2mg, B12 3ug, Ca lactate 100mg, nicotinamide 20mg, Ca pantothenate 5mg, folic acid 250ug, K iodide 75ug, copper sulfate 1mg, Mg sulfate 5mg, manganese sulfate 1mg.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| MOLVITE OB CAPLET | 6.40 | 5.75 |

Fe fumarate anhydrous (elem Fe 82.5mg) 250mg, vit C 100mg, Ca pantothenate 20mg, manganese sulfate 200ug, copper sulfate 0.2mg, folic acid 1mg, vit B12 50ug.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *MACROBEE W/IRON CAPLET | 10.00 | 9.00 |

**ENERGY DRINKS:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LIPOVITAN 100ML | 22.25 | 21.25 |
| LIPOVITAN IRA OR 100ML | 22.25 | 21.25 |
| LIPOVITAN XL 150ML | 25.00 | 23.75 |
| CALCIUMADE DRINK 1000G | 222.75 | 207.25 |
| CALCIUMADE DRINK 30G 6 | 48.25 | 44.75 |
| CALCIUMADE DRINK 400G | 97.00 | 90.25 |

**BABY POWDER**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| JOHNSON BB PDR LAV&CHAM 100G | 25.25 | 20.25 |

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# SPORTS

*Editor* **Al S. Mendoza** ● *Associate Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

## SPORTSTV

**Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat**

GOLF: Inside the PGA Tour, 11 a.m., Star Sports

LPGA Tournament of Champions, 1 p.m., ESPN

The Tour Championship, 3 p.m., Star Sports

POOL: 1997 World Pool Masters - Tommy Donlan vs Earl Strickland Finals, 5 p.m. (r), ESPN

World Pool Masters 2001, 8:30 p.m. (r), ESPN

# Polio victim sizzles

BUSAN, South Korea–Polio-stricken Africita Salazar bagged a silver medal in athletics last Wednesday, providing inspiration to the Philippine delegation in the 8th Far East and South Pacific (FESPIC) Games for the Disabled here.

The 38-year-old Salazar, on her fifth international tournament, clocked 23.34 seconds in the T-53 class (wheelchair) of the women's 100-m race at the Busan Main Stadium.

Vietnam's Pham Thi Thu Thanh won the gold in 21.86 seconds.

*"Nagpapasalamat ako sa* PHILSPADA (Philippine Sports Association for the Differently Abled) *na nag-alaga at sumuporta sa akin. Gusto ko ring i-*share *itong* medal *sa lahat ng* teammates *ko,"* said Salazar, a bookkeeper at the Tahanang Walang Hagdan.

Salazar debuted in the 1994 FESPIC Games in Beijing. She won the 100-m gold and 200-m silver in the 2000 Paralympiad in Malaysia. Last year, she pocketed the silver in the 100-m, 200-m, 400-m and 4 x 100 relay (Cherrylyn dela Cruz, Ruth Maragrag and Cristy Padtoc) and the 1,500-m bronze in the ASEAN Para Games in Kuala Lumpur.

Salazar's silver marked the three-medal haul of the Philippines for the day after Roderick Canta took the F-57 men's shot put bronze and newcomer Paz Enano bagged the T-54 women's 100-m run bronze.

Canta, a native of Cainta, Rizal, measured 6.86 meters to finish behind Australian Gary Aberley (10.09) and Myanmar's Naing Win (10.02).

# Quilaton tackles Guevarra

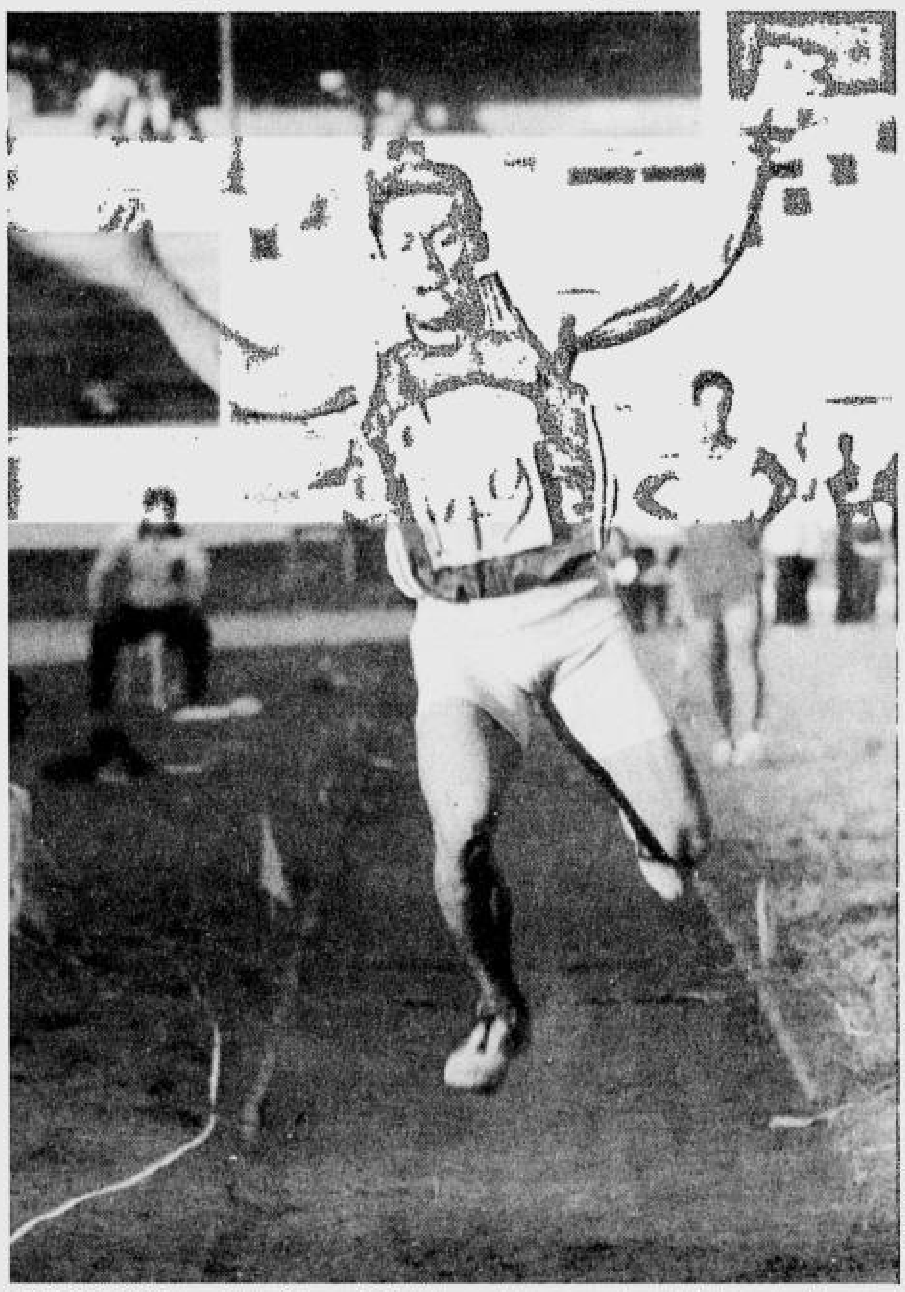
RODEL Quilaton, the Philippines' No. 1 light-flyweight contender, fights Alex Guevarra of the Mandaluyong Stable at the Joe Cantada Boxing Arena in Taguig on Saturday, Nov. 2. The match will serve as a tune-up match for Quilaton before he challenges reigning Philippine Light-Flyweight champion Wendyl Janiola in December, also at the Joe Cantada Boxing Arena.

Supporting the main event are the exciting Fil-Am brothers Glen and Nonito Donaire, Jr. Glen faces Ben Albanez in an 8-round, 108 lbs. fight while younger brother Nonito Jr., an international champion, is matched against Mark Sales, also in 8 rounds but in the 112 lbs. division.

Joe Cantada Boxing Arena in Taguig, Metro Manila, boasts of atop of the line Everlast boxing ring with a certified floor rubber foam padding that gives ample protection to boxers from head injury due to fall. Everlast boxing gloves are used exclusively in the fight card. Edgardo "Boy" Cantada is the promoter of what promises to be another slam bang fight night. Admission is free.

## FRIENDSHIP GAMES

# Iligan captures overall title



**SERVANDO** Namalata of Tangub City jumps his way to the triple jump gold medal victory in the Mindanao Friendship Games.

RYAN LIM/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

**By June Navarro**

**CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY–Iligan City upstaged Davao City at the close of competitions yesterday to capture the overall crown of the Mindanao Friendship Games at the Don Gregorio Pelaez Sports Complex here.**

The final day of the Games was immersed in confusion after organizers fed reporters covering the event the wrong results which erroneously awarded Davao City the overall championship title.

Nevertheless, the monumental mistake committed by the event secretariat was rectified, giving Iligan City the victory on the strength of its 34-19-30 gold-silver-bronze medal haul.

Davao City (34-19-18) made a mad dash at glory and tied Iligan City's gold and silver-medal output but finished at second place as it finished 12 bronze medals short of Iligan's collection.

Trailing behind Iligan City by a mile in the medal count early in the day, Davao City won a handful of ballgames and individual events and engaged Iligan in a tough fight to the finish.

Davao City netted medals in boxing, table tennis, lawn tennis, women's softball and basketball and men's volleyball.

From a 24-gold medal haul, Davao City zoomed like a rocket which disengaged from its launching pad and hauled 10 more gold medals before the event that enticed over 4,000 athletes in the region finally came to a close.

But Iligan City, already resting on its laurels after copping 32 golds the other day, only needed two boxing golds to frustrate the rampaging Davaoeños and top the second edition of the regional meet.

Misamis Oriental had 27 gold, 29 silver and 31 bronze medals and finished third overall.

Davao City Sports Council Inc. president Vic Sai, who spearheaded the city's successful stint, said the entire Davao City delegation failed to get a single centavo from its local government officials.

"Maybe the local government officials of Davao City have other priorities but just the same we proved that we have what it takes to excel in sports," Sai was quoted as saying in a Cagayan De Oro-based daily.

Davao City recently played host to the Manny Pacquiao-Fahprakorb Rakkiatgym IBF super bantamweight title fight. Pacquiao gallantly defended his crown for the third time by knocking out Rakkiatgym of Thailand in the first round and pocketed $160,000 (roughly P8 million) for his victory.

"The MFG was a resounding success as sports proved to be an effective tool in promoting peace and unity in a region considered as a rich breeding ground of athletic talent," said Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain.

# Thailand Asian beach volleyball top favorite

CLARK, Pampanga–With China still unsure of competing, the quality of the field seeing action in the 1st Clark Centennial Cup Asian Beach Volleyball Championship remains tough as the best teams in the Southeast Asian region will plane in one after the other early next week.

The organizing AYN Sports Management Group confirmed this yesterday with recent Asian Games fourth placer Thailand coming together with Indonesia and Vietnam to vie for the tournament backed by the PSC, Gatorade, Speedo, Philippine Airlines, Globe, Absolute and the Philippine Star.

China won the gold and the silver medals in the Busan Asian Games. Recent developments have made the odds-on favorite flip-flop at the moment, leaving six countries and a total of 10 teams in the field vying for a total of $10,000 in prize money.

The Clearwater Country Club plays host to the event, with Department of Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon invited as guest of honor on Wednesday.

Thailand will be sending the very team that narrowly lost the bronze in the Asian Games, automatically becoming the logical choice to win this, the sixth leg of the Asian circuit, if the Chinese do decide not to come.

Japan will also be in the tournament and together with Vietnam, the Philippines to be represented by two teams, one being the local inter-collegiate champion. *Dennis U. Eroa*

# Fil-Am golf attracts 600 players

BAGUIO CITY–Baguio City has kicked off the Yuletide season with the staging of the historic and prestigious Fil-Am Golf Invitational, the world's largest and one of the oldest tournaments for the past 52 years.

From Dec. 2-7, Baguio Country Club will again host 600 players comprising 60 local and foreign teams in the 53rd edition of the tournament, in a week of fellowship and friendly competition aimed to foster international harmony and goodwill.

"We are so happy to be part of this. Where else could you find a tournament that features the most number of participants and six rounds of golf in one event? That is why we cherish the Fil-Am," said Anthony de Leon, the newly-appointed general manager of BCC.

One of the country's oldest golf clubs, BCC joined Camp John Hay as a co-host of the Fil-Am tournament in 1957. This allowed further expansion in the capability to fit the ever-increasing number of participants. Both golf courses have established reputations placing them in good stead in the world rankings.

BCC offers its members and golf enthusiasts a pleasurable and quaint 18-hole, par 61, 4,038-yard course nestled 5,000 feet above sea level and designed by Filipino golfing great Luis "Golem" Silverio.

# Forbes shatters mark, but takes 5th in hurdles

**By Marc Anthony Reyes**

BANGKOK–Julie Rose Forbes broke the Philippine junior mark she herself established but could only place fifth overall in the 400m hurdles Wednesday night in the Asian junior track and field championships here.

The petite and dusky Mindoro lass managed to stay in the lead pack almost every step of the way but in the end faded against her long-limbed counterparts from China, Kyrgizstan and Japan.

Still, she clocked one minute and 2.37 seconds to better her 1:02.8 mark she posted during the National Open held last May. The 19-year-old also trounced her Southeast Asian rivals, making her a cinch for a slot in the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games next year.

Ralph Waldy Soguilon finished second in his heat in the 100m dash but lost steam in the semifinals also late Wednesday. He placed 7th of eight runners in the semis with a time of 11.02 seconds, way off his 10.82 personal best.

Nevertheless, the two quickly got the attention of athletics chief Go Teng Kok, who right away recommended them for the national team in SEAG.

"We will pay lots of attention to their training because they showed promise and refused to get intimidated by their tough foreign rivals," said Go.

Forbes, a protege of Elma Muros who is also here for the first time as coach, left behind her SEA rivals from Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia by almost three seconds with Thai Saijai Pengtee coming in at sixth with 1:05.04.

But she just can't catch up with Chinese Hongfan Xiao who captured the gold in 59.28 seconds, followed by Kyrgizstani Galina Pedan (1:00.52) and Japanese Chisa Nishio (1:00.66) and Naomi Nishii (1:01.84).

"They are very tough and I'm the only one who is junior-size in the field," said Forbes, who is a fourth year B.S. Secondary Education at the University of the East.

Forbes, who just came from the UniGames held in Dumaguete where she won the 400m run gold, was the only Filipino bet who made the finals of her event after her four other teammates fell on the wayside.

**GOLFERS FETED**

**Presidential Security Adviser on peace process, Sec. Eduardo Ermita (3rd from right) shakes hands with Angelo Que, Juvic Pagunsan and Jerome Delariarte during the party for the trio's third-place team finish in the recent World Golf Amateurs in Kuala Lumpur. The ceremony was hosted by DHL-World Wide Express through its chair Rod Feliciano (2nd from left) and managing director Joe Feliciano. Also in photo are Jun Galindes, coach Roger Retuerto, Don Feliciano, Cmdr. Danny Pizarro and Anthony Sasin. The RP Team, with Que finishing third overall, was skippered by Vice Admiral Louie Fernandez.**

## BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1991, Manny Tanjangco and Romy Virola scored 236.891 points to snatch the open pairs bridge title in the Philippine Contract Bridge League at Camp Aguinaldo. Also today in 1991, Vittorio "Vic" Barba beat the opposition to place third in the international class of the Hawkesbury One Day Horse Trials in Clarendon, New Southwales, Australia.

## 'ONE GOOD THING DESERVES ANOTHER'

# *U-Bix Riviera Pro-Am slated Nov. 13-16*

ELATED by the smashing success he scored last year with the launch of his new "baby," sportsman Bert Bravo announced yesterday the staging this month of the 2nd U-Bix Riviera Pro-Am.

This time though, the tournament will be held at Riviera's Couples Course and not at the more difficult Langer, where Noli Kempis and Erwin Vinluan scored their breakthrough victory last year.

The second edition is set for Nov. 13-16, using the same format of one-ball, twosome.

"One good thing deserves another," said Bravo, who will team up anew with the Riviera Golf & Country Club through its president Danny Pizarro and GM John Blanch in staging the country's most enduring event featuring a professional partnering with an amateur.

The National Golf Association of the Philippines is the lead organization handling the four-day event.

Bravo, who also owns Caffe Appassionato aside from U-Bix Corporation, will shell out P1 million anew as money prizes.

**BRAVO**

He will also give away Epson printers and Bravo Golf products like S-Yard drivers, among others, for the winners of the Celebrity Pro-Am set for Nov. 12.

Last year's inaugural, which was actually a revival of the famed Boni Pro-Am that was scrapped following the "demise" of the Fort Bonifacio golf course, produced drama on the final day.

Before winning, Kempis and Vinluan had engaged the father-and-son tandem of Juanito and Juvic Pagunsan to a thrilling, drama-laden finish.

The break for Kempis and Vinluan came when Juanito hit the ravine guarding the 18th green, causing the downfall of the Pagunsans.

It was a bitter setback particularly to Juvic, who, just weeks back, had won the gold medal in the SEA Games in Kuala Lumpur.

"The beauty of this tournament is that teamwork is at play from beginning to end," said Bravo, who had also bankrolled the Philippine Open a while back. "Life is basically like that: We need teamwork to succeed."

## NBA ROUNDUP

# Raptors rip Wizards; Yao debuts

**TORONTO—Morris Peterson scored 19 points and 10 rebounds and Vince Carter added 18 points, while Michael Jordan managed just eight points as the Toronto Raptors downed the Washington Wizards 74-68 in NBA action on Wednesday night.**

Carter was the clear winner in the showdown against Jordan, as both players played their first regular season games after injuries sidelined them late last season.

Carter played tenacious defense and went six-for-14 from the field in 36 minutes, while Jordan was just four-for-14 coming off the bench for 24 minutes.

Jordan, who turns 40 in February, missed two free throws with 4:06 left and then missed a breakaway dunk moments later, clanging the ball off the rim.

Voshon Lenard added 10 points off the bench for Toronto, while Antonio Davis had 16 rebounds and nine points. New center Jelani McCoy had a career-high 12 rebounds.

Kwame Brown had a career-high 18 rebounds, 12 points and five blocks for the Wizards, while Jerry Stackhouse had 19 points.

Washington shot just 29.6 percent from the field.

**Pacers 91, Rockets 82**

In Indianapolis, Yao Ming's NBA debut was an uneventful one as the 7-foot-6 Chinese rookie struggled during his Houston Rockets 91-82 loss to the Indiana Pacers.

The number one overall pick in last June's NBA draft, failed to pick up any points, pulled down just two rebounds and picked up three fouls while playing just 13 minutes coming off the bench.

Jermaine O'Neal had 24 points to lead the Pacers, while Ron Artest scored 20 points.

Steve Francis had a career-high 39 points for the Rockets.

**Bulls 99, Celtics 96**

In Boston, Jalen Rose had 21 points and 12 assists to lead the Chicago Bulls to a 99-96 win over the Celtics in Boston's home opener.

Trenton Hassell had 14 points for the Bulls, including eight in the final three minutes.

Paul Pierce had 28 points for the Celtics, while Tony Delk added 23 points. Antoine Walker had 14 points and 11 rebounds.

**76ers 95, Bucks 93**

In Philadelphia, Allen Iverson had 28 points and the game-winning jumper in the final minute to lead the 76ers to a 95-93 win over the Milwaukee Bucks. *Reuters*

**Complete results:**

Chicago 99, Boston 96; Indiana 91, Houston 82; Philadelphia 95, Milwaukee 93; Toronto 74, Washington 68; Orlando 100, Miami 86; New Jersey 105, Atlanta 94; Detroit 86, New York 77; Dallas 119, Memphis 108; Minnesota 83, Denver 77; New Orleans 100, Utah 75; Portland 102, LA Lakers 90; Seattle 86, Phoenix 73; GoldenState 106, San Antonio 98; Cleveland 98, LA Clippers 96.

# Jordan scores 8 pts as reserve

TORONTO—Michael Jordan began his new role as a reserve for the Washington Wizards and the 39-year-old superstar played like he belonged on the bench.

Jordan scored only eight points, making only 4-of-14 shots in 25 minutes in Toronto's 74-68 victory over the Wizards, who shot only 24-of-81 from the field in the game. Washington's starting forwards were a combined 6-for-22.

"I missed some layups, had some good shots that didn't go in," Jordan said.

"Early on, everyone was fumbling the ball. It was one of those games where it was pretty ugly on both sides. For us to come out and expect everyone to be clicking is far-fetched."

The Wizards' night was typified midway through the fourth quarter when Jordan missed a breakaway dunk and newcomer Jerry Stackhouse fired an airball from 3-point range on back-to-back possessions.

"We were all like that," Stackhouse said. "When that happens you miss layups and you miss dunks. Even Michael."

Morris Peterson had 20 points and a career-high 12 rebounds and Vince Carter scored 18 points for the Raptors.

"We were just out of sync," Washington coach Doug Collins said. "Toronto played well defensively, but I found that we were very impatient. A lot of it could have been jitters and guys wanting to do well. Offensively, we were terrible." *AFP*

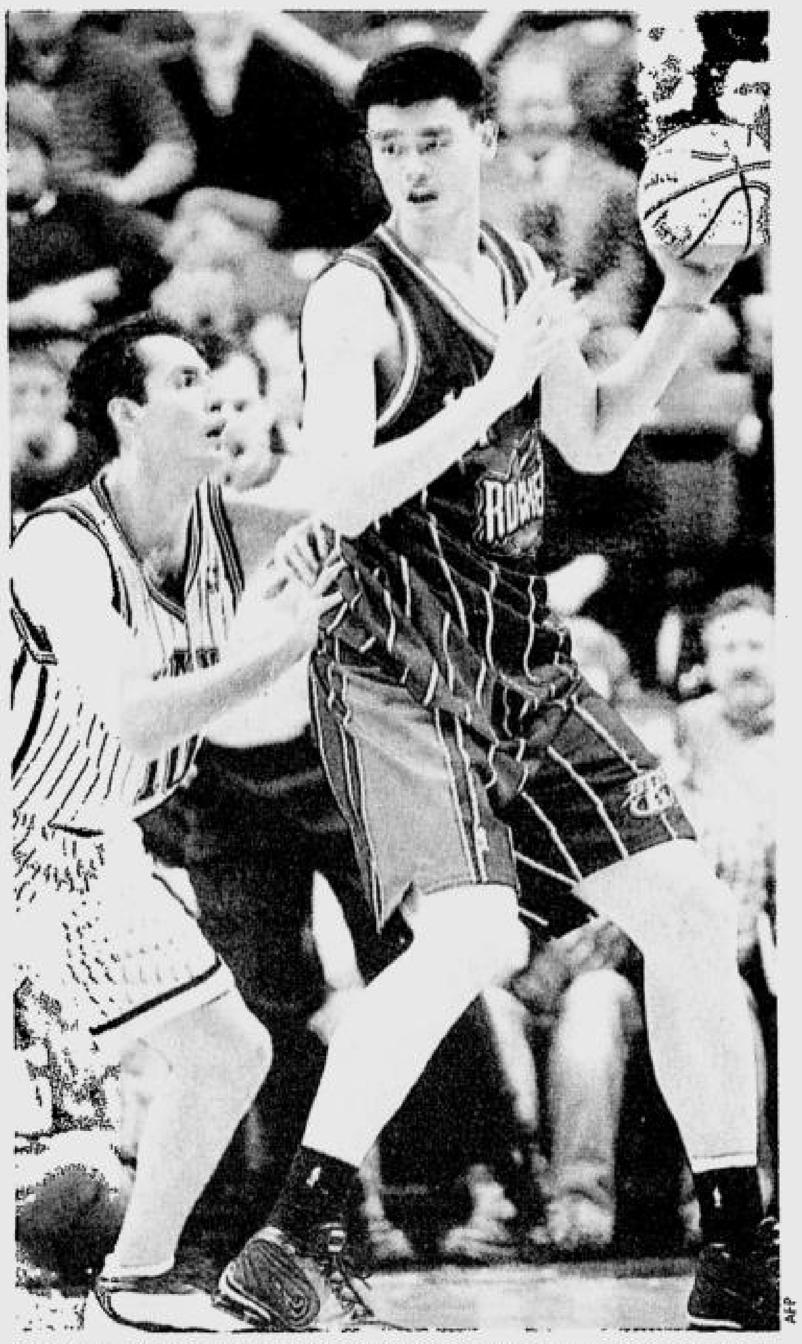
## Ming gets nervous

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana—Chinese giant Yao Ming received a rude awakening to life in the NBA here Wednesday, producing no points and only two rebounds in a losing cause.

The 2.26m center missed his only shot and lacked the quickness to stay with Indiana center Jermaine O'Neal, who scored 24 points and pulled down 10 rebounds in the Pacers' 91-82 victory over Houston.

"There are some things I regret," Yao said. "It was disappointing. But there has to be a start for everything and this is a start for me."

Yao, the first non-United States player taken with the top pick in the NBA Draft, played only 11 minutes and was whistled for three fouls. He received mild applause from a non-sellout crowd at Conseco Fieldhouse. *AFP*


AFP

**YAO Ming (right) is guarded by Jeff Foster of the Indiana Pacers. Yao was scoreless in his NBA debut as the Pacers beat the Rockets, 91-82.**

# PGA Tour on; Tiger favored

ATLANTA, Georgia—Phil Mickelson returns to the course where he pulled off a rare last-day comeback victory over Tiger Woods, who will try to avenge that defeat at the PGA Tour Championship.

World No. 1 Woods and second-rated Mickelson are among the US tour's 30 top money winners on hand for the season-ending showdown at East Lake Golf Club, where the winner takes home $900,000.

Mickelson won the 2000 Tour Championship at East Lake by overtaking Woods, joining Ed Fiori as the only men in 28 tries to erase a Woods lead after 54 holes.

Fiori overtook Woods at the 1996 Quad Cities Open as Woods was vying for a permanent place on the PGA Tour. He had not been bested since until "Lefty" made his move.

"To catch him you have to play an exceptional round and be aggressive and have those shots be pulled off." Mickelson should know. His quest for a first major title has been foiled by failures to catch Woods, whose record with a 54-hole lead in PGA events is 26-2 overall and 8-0 in major tournaments.

Woods shared the lead here two years ago with Fiji's Vijay Singh before Mickelson caught them early. Trying to keep pace, Woods missed a birdie chance at the 15th hole, bogeyed the 17th and finished two shots back. *AFP*

**SAMPLING IT**

**Bruce Charlton (extreme right) samples The Summit Point Golf & Country Club in Lipa City. Charlton is senior VP of the Robert Trent Jones Jr Design Group. Watching are Mike Khaler, Mike Poobalan, former BOI Gov. Conrad Leviste, Rodolfo de Leon and Lauro Leviste II. The new course is a Sta. Lucia Realty & Development, Inc. joint venture project.**

# Stock broker shines in putting tourney

PATRICK Tsai wielded the hottest putter among the 250 entires who took part in the blockbuster opening leg of the Samsung Putting Challenge at the Aguinaldo Golf Club over the weekend, winning his division with 14 strokes out of a possible 18.

Tsai, a young stock broker, collected five birdies—including an ace on the designated hole—that more than made up for a three-putt miscue on his last hole for the lowest score in the well-attended weekend launch.

The Aguinaldo stop kicks off a seven-leg swing of the Putting Tour—part of a three-in-one event dubbed as the Samsung DigitAll Golf Challenge—also sponsored by TaylorMade adidas, Gatorade, Maxfli, Custom Clubmakers, Hotshots Flame-Grilled Burgers, Wave 89.1, City Lite 88.3, 103.5 K-Lite, Magic 89.9, KillerBee and 99.5 RT are radio partners.

Tsai led the 10 players who advanced to the grand finals next year. Also making it with their respective scores are SJR Bello (15) and Rafael Balignasay (18) for the seniors group, Roger Hisarza (15), Teddy Viduya (15) and Henry del Rosario (15) for the men's class, Josie Untal (16) and Ia Bakunawa (17) for ladies, and Matet Salivio (17) and JP de Claro (19) for jungolf.

**AF3 WINNERS**

**AFC Final Leg champion, Mark Goddard (center) holds his trophy with Enzo Pastor (right) the newly crowned FRD Asian Formula Renault 2002 Champion, who also placed second in his AF3 debut while Richard Joson (left) won third place in this last leg of the Asian formula Challenge held in Subic International Raceway last Sunday.**

# Coseteng bags crown

SUBIC—Jody Coseteng set aside the disappointments of three consecutive losses in the previous months to sweep the 11th and 12th rounds and wrap up the overall championship with still two races left in the SVI-Petron Grand Prix at the Subic International Raceway.

The multi-awarded driver of Red Horse-Auto Plus-Caltex, who lost to archrival Kookie Ramirez of Petron-SRA in the last three rounds, redeemed himself with a pair of decisive victories to move way ahead in the overall standings in this 14-part series organized by the Sports Values Inc. (SVI) and sponsored by Petron.

Coseteng defeated Mike Anton of QC Autosport-Pinoy Toppings in the 11th round and 1999 champion Miguel Ramirez of Petron-SRA in the 12th round in the annual series held simultaneously with the Asian Formula 3 Challenge.

# Cebu bet prevails

SUBIC—Despite a disappointing weekend, top Cebuano racing figure and Shell Racing driver Joel Retuya went on to formally clinch the 2002 Formula Toyota Cup Sunday at the Subic Internatioal Raceway here.

Actually, Retuya was already assured of the crown coming into the last two rounds after accumulating 185 points. However, he failed to wrap it up with a good show as his car crashed into the wall, forcing a restart of the combined Formula 3 and Formula Toyota race.

Teammate Mandy Borja took the overall runner-up with 137 while Victor Yap, who ended third in both races, settled for third overall with 117 in this series sanctioned by the Automotive Association of the Philippines (formely PMA) and sponsored by the Batangas Racing Circuit Association (BRCA) Board of Governors, Pilipinas Shell, Toyota Motors Phil., Casino Filipino, MOF Shipping, Norkis-Yamaha, Marlboro, and Kilton Motors Corp.

The day belonged to Carlo Pastor and Roland Hermoso who split honors in the two races.

# *F1's wonder boy girds for Manila visit Nov. 9*

**BUTTON**

HE is young, good-looking, and boy, can he drive.

Jenson Button, the 22-year-old Englishman tagged as the next king of Formula One, is preparing to party with his growing horde of Filipino fans next week as he drops by for a brief visit for Mild Seven's Nov. 9 F1 party.

The Mild Seven Renault F1 Team driver capped this year's season with a points-scoring finish in Suzuka, Japan which sealed his team's early season promise of a fourth place in the Constructor's Championship.

"It's great to get a point for the team and myself," said Jenson after his final race. "It has been an up and down season, but has been good for my experience. It has been fun working with the team."

Jenson finished in the points seven times this year. But that is not his biggest achievement for the year: he placed 7th overall in the Driver's Championship with 14 points, one notch higher than his 8th place in his rookie year two years ago.

Mild Seven Renault F1 Team managing director Flavio Briatore praised Jenson. "It was a good way to conclude this season. Special thanks to Jenson, who has done a great job for us."

Jenson has been racing since his childhood days. From his first taste of karting when he was just 8-years-old, he has been a winner. In the 1991 British Cadet Championship, he finished with 34 wins—from 34 races.

He then went onto to win a string of victories on the British, European and World stages. Twice British Open Champion, in 1995 he won the Italian ICA Senior title, and two years later crowned his karting achievements by becoming the youngest ever winner of the European Super A title. Also that year, Jenson won the Ayrton Senna Memorial Race in Japan, a fitting climax to a stunning kart career.

The talented youngster had long been the talk of the motor racing world, with seasoned observers waiting to see how he would adapt to racing cars. the answer quickly came—Jenson was dominant in Formula Ford in 1998, taking nine wins in the British Championship on the way to claiming the title. Recognition of what a special talent this young man from Somerset, England, had become came with the award of the prestigious McLaren Autosport BRDC Young Driver of the Year title at the end of 1998.

His jump straight into Formula 3 the next season saw Jenson rock the established stars by placing his car on pole position for the very fist race of the year. Racing against drivers with more than a season of F3 under their belts, and with an engine not quite on a par with the best, Jenson took three wins, claimed the Rookie of the Year title and took third in the championship.

In November of 1999, Jenson sampled a Formula One car for the first time, taking to the track in a McLaren MP4/13. A couple of weeks later a test for the Prost team saw Jenson outpace the experienced Jean Alesi, and now the F1 world was sitting up and taking notice.

The Williams team put Jenson into a high-pressure 'shoot-out' against another young rising star—one with far more experience—and Jenson won. Suddenly the world had a new F1 star.

At 20, Jenson was the youngest driver on the grid for the opening Grand Prix of the 2000 season, but he impressed with his coolness and race pace. A point in just his second Grand Prix signaled his intentions, and by the end of the season the youngster was eighth in the Drivers' Championship—an amazing feat for a rookie racer.

During his brief visit in the Philippines, Button will be drawing the lucky winner of an all-expense-paid trip for two to the Sepang Circuit next year for the Malaysian Grand Prix. Anyone 18 years old and above can join by simply filling out empty Mild Seven packs with his name, address, age and signature and send them to Wishcraft Creative Events, #17 San Pablo St., Bo. Kapitolyo, Pasig City, 1603.

Entries can be dropped at The Fort at Bonifacio Global City on Nov. 8 before midnight. The winner should be at the venue when his/her name is called.

# Sacramento vs Portland live on Solar

THE SACRAMENTO Kings, the team which came just one game short of dethroning the Los Angeles Lakers in last year's NBA Western Conference Finals, make their season debut on Philippine television tonight (Friday, Nov. 1) against the tough Portland Trailblazers live at 11 a.m. on the Solar Sports Network (Channel 29 on Skycable and Homecable), with a replay at 7 p.m.

The Kings will be bannered by Chris Webber, Peja Stojakovic and Vlade Divac, but will miss the services of point guard Mike Bibby, who is nursing an injury. Rasheed Wallace, Bonzi Welles and Scottie Pippen lead the Blazers, who have also been re-joined by 7-3 Arvyadas Sabonis, who left the NBA for a year.

Kings fans can also catch their favorite team on Monday (Nov. 4) against the Miami Heat at 7 p.m. on IBC-13. The rest of the Kings televised games for the month will be on Nov. 9 (Saturday) against the Memphis Grizzlies (live at 11:30 a.m., Solar Sports Network), Nov. 11 (Monday) against the Atlanta Hawks (live at 10 a.m., Solar Sports Network), Nov. 16 (Saturday) against the Seattle Supersonics (live at 11 a.m., Solar Sports Network), Nov. 20 (Wednesday) against the Chicago Bulls (live at 11 a.m., Solar Sports Network) and Nov. 21 (Thursday) against the Los Angeles Clippers (7 p.m. on IBC-13).

But perhaps the most-awaited Kings game of the young NBA season will come on Christmas Day, Dec. 25, when the Kings clash with the NBA champion Lakers, 7 p.m., on IBC-13. The Kings pushed the Lakers to a deciding Game Seven in last season's West Finals.

# Change needed now

**SPECTATOR**

*Al S. Mendoza*

UP to now, I can't seem to understand why such a big sporting event like the South East Asian Games could conceptualize a policy so crazy it defies sanity.

Look, the Games' founders were either obsessed with power tripping or simply too preoccupied with things so mundane they had forgotten about the true meaning of logic when the SEA Games was on the drawing board.

Hey, they've been doing it for decades and nobody seems to mind. Their act merits a page in the Guinness Book of World Records.

I refer to the SEA Games' policy of allowing each host country to select the disciplines to be contested–oftentimes to the detriment of other member-countries.

Vietnam is hosting the SEA Games next year and, this early, several member-countries, including the Philippines, have started to criticize Vietnam's move to scrap bowling and golf from the 2003 calendar.

The reason is obvious: the Vietnamese can't win the gold medals in both disciplines simply because they lack talent.

What kind of a tournament that gives the host the chance to be so utterly selfish? It's like seeing your favorite dish not being served to you by your host because said dish can't be eaten by your host for one reason or another.

We've done it to them in 1991, the year we hosted the SEA Games and missed the championship by a single gold medal.

This evil practice has got to end.

What good will it bring our youth when the supposed leaders of the Games are the first to subvert the essense of sportsmanship?

About time our SEA Games leaders started to change their, uh-oh, crooked ways.

## BLED OLYMPIAD

# RP chessers bow to Danes

**BLED, Slovenia—The Philippines absorbed its second loss, this time against Denmark, 2.5-1.5, Wednesday in the fifth round of the 35th Chess Olympiad.**

The Filipino chessers could have drawn the match, but Petronio Roca refused a draw offer from his opponent, leaving International Master Nicolai Pedersen with no choice but to press on to victory in a 92-move Benoni Defense.

GM Eugene Torre won over Peter Heine Nielsen in 56 moves of a Trompovsky, but Lars Schanderff equalized by outplaying Bong Villamayor in a 53 move Slav Defense.

IM Mark Paragua and Sune Berg Hansen agreed to a draw in 15 moves of an English Opening.

The Philippine men's team slid to a share of 39th to 47th places and will play Tajikistan in Thursday's round six. The Philippines took its first loss at the hands of the United States, also losing 2.5-1.5.

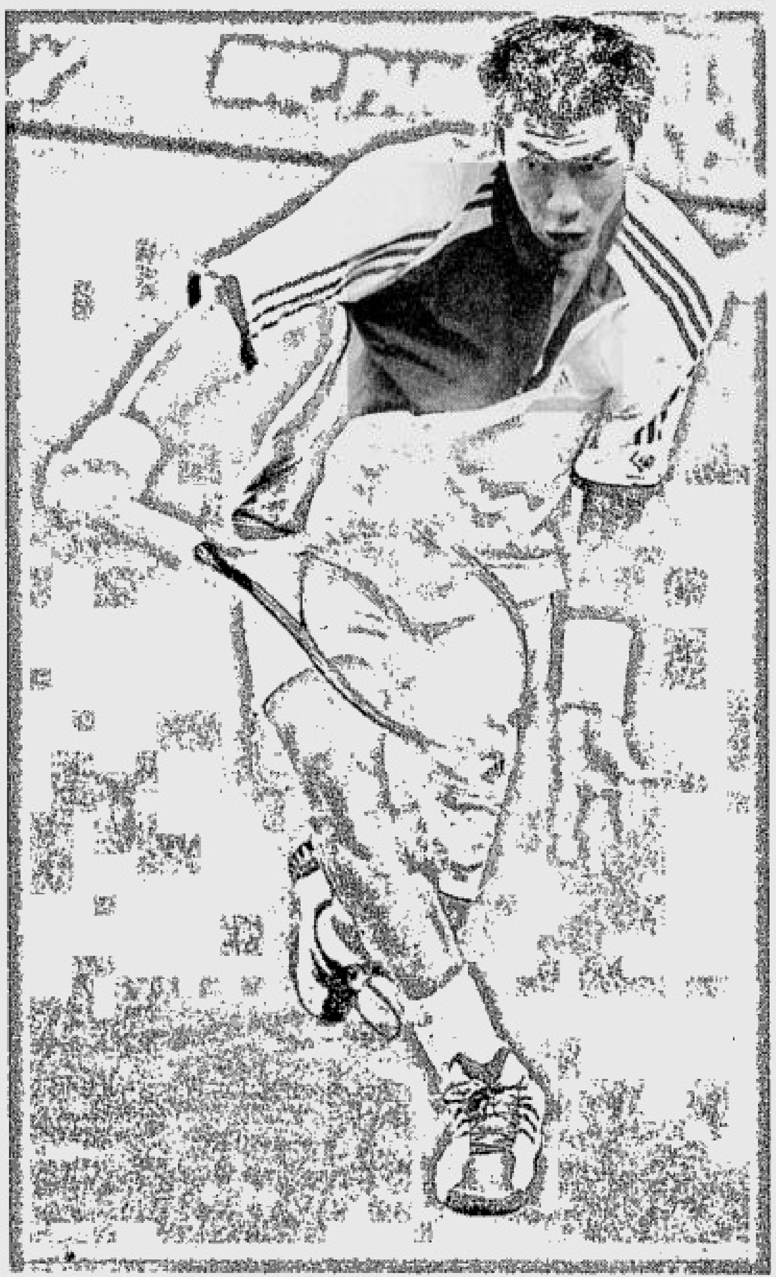
Despite the loss, Philippine team captain Samuel Estimo said there is enough time to recover.

"It's still a long way to go," said Estimo, also secretary general of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines.

The women's team was held to a draw by a team of physically handicapped chess players, 1.5-1.5, raising its score to 7.5 points after six rounds. It is sharing 24th to 31st places.

It was against this crew that Arianne Caoili stumbled to her second loss, this time against Galina Shliatch, in 42 moves of a King's Indian Defense.

After a series of mixed results, Sheerie Joy Lomibao won against Fide Master Galina Melnik in 45 moves of a Center Counter. Woman International Master Beverly Mendoza drew Ivana Tallova in 30 moves of a Queen's Pawn Opening.



**SRICHAPHAN returns to Spain's Juan-Carlos Ferrero at the Paris Indoor tournament. Srichaphan won, 6-2, 6-3.** AFP

# Safin earns Cup slot; 'Para' stuns Ferrero

PARIS—Third seed Marat Safin gave the French crowd a taste of what they can expect in next month's Davis Cup final when he destroyed Wimbledon finalist David Nalbandian in the Paris Masters second round on Wednesday.

Safin took just 62 minutes to beat the Argentine 6-3, 6-2 with a near faultless display of baseline power–guaranteeing his place in the Masters Cup in Shanghai whatever the outcome of his third round match with Dutchman Sjeng Schalken on Thursday.

"I'll enjoy this week now," said the Russian who won the title here in 2000. "I did start to have some doubts about qualifying because everybody was so close, but now the pressure is off and I have nothing to lose."

Spain's Juan Carlos Ferrero could also have sealed his place at the end-of-season showdown by beating Paradorn Srichaphan, but found the fast-rising Thai at his unstoppable best, losing 6-2, 6-3 in just over an hour.

The 23-year-old from Bangkok, who began the year at 120 in the rankings but has moved up to 20th on the back of titles in Long Island in August and Stockholm last week, said: "After beating players like Hewitt (in Tokyo) and Agassi (Wimbledon) I know when I go on court I can beat anybody."

Switzerland's Roger Federer, Britain's Tim Henman and Spain's Carlos Moya enhanced their Masters Cup chances with convincing second-round wins, but Czech Jiri Novak suffered a costly defeat. *Reuters*

# Gutierrez, Bon shine

SUBIC—Monching Gutierrez of Dickies-MP Turbo and Dominique Bon dominated one race each to share top honors, even as Oscar Aguilar of Caltex-Beefeater boosted his chances in the SVI Challenge Cup at the Subic International Raceway here Sunday.

Gutierrez outlasted perennial rival Don Pastor of Team TEC to rule the action-packed 12th round and widen his lead in the overall standings going into the final two rounds of this 14-part series organized by the Sports Values, Inc. (SVI) next month.

Overall, Gutierrez has 87 points, 39 points ahead of Pastor.

The well-known TV-movie actor, who dominated the competition since the third round last April 28, clocked 35:39.900 in the 12-lap race held along with the "Asian Formula 3 Challenge" and the SVI-Petron Grand Prix.

Pastor, who provided the only worthy opposition to Gutierrez with three victories this season, finished second with a time of 35:45.510.

Bon, who skipped the first half of the series, edged female driver Gabby de la Merced of Big Shot Billiards and Gutierrez to rule the 11th round.

Bon timed 31:15.607 against De la Merced's 31:16.662 and Gutierez's 31:20.164.

Equally impressive was Aguilar, who clinched one of two races to keep his hopes alive in the eight-man Class C.

Aguilar, who also finished second in the other race held for the day, moved within four points of series leader Pastor with still two rounds left, 67-71.

# Yap doubtful PBL starter

**By Dennis U. Eroa**

SWINGMAN James Yap, the UAAP's top marksman, may not see action in the PBL Challenge Cup which starts on Monday at the Makati Coliseum.

The 6-foot-3 Yap, whose knack for hitting triples has brought back images of fellow University of the East scoring great Allan Caidic, has gotten into a dispute with the management of ICTSI-La Salle, thus hurting his chances to make the roster.

"Anything can happen. James (Yap) may play or not play this season. The ball is in his hands," said Manny Salgado, an ICTSI team official.

The dispute stemmed from Yap's persistent attempts to earn a salary increase. INQUIRER sources said that Yap was prodded upon by his manager to seek an increase following his outstanding performance in the UAAP where the Red Warriors nearly made it to the finals.

ICTSI, however, isn't in the mood to give the Bacolod native a raise.

Salgado said it's not fair to the other players if Yap will get a raise. He didn't want to divulge Yap's monthly salary except say that the King Warrior just received an increase after two conferences of playing with ICTSI. He added that Yap threatened to sit it out this conference.

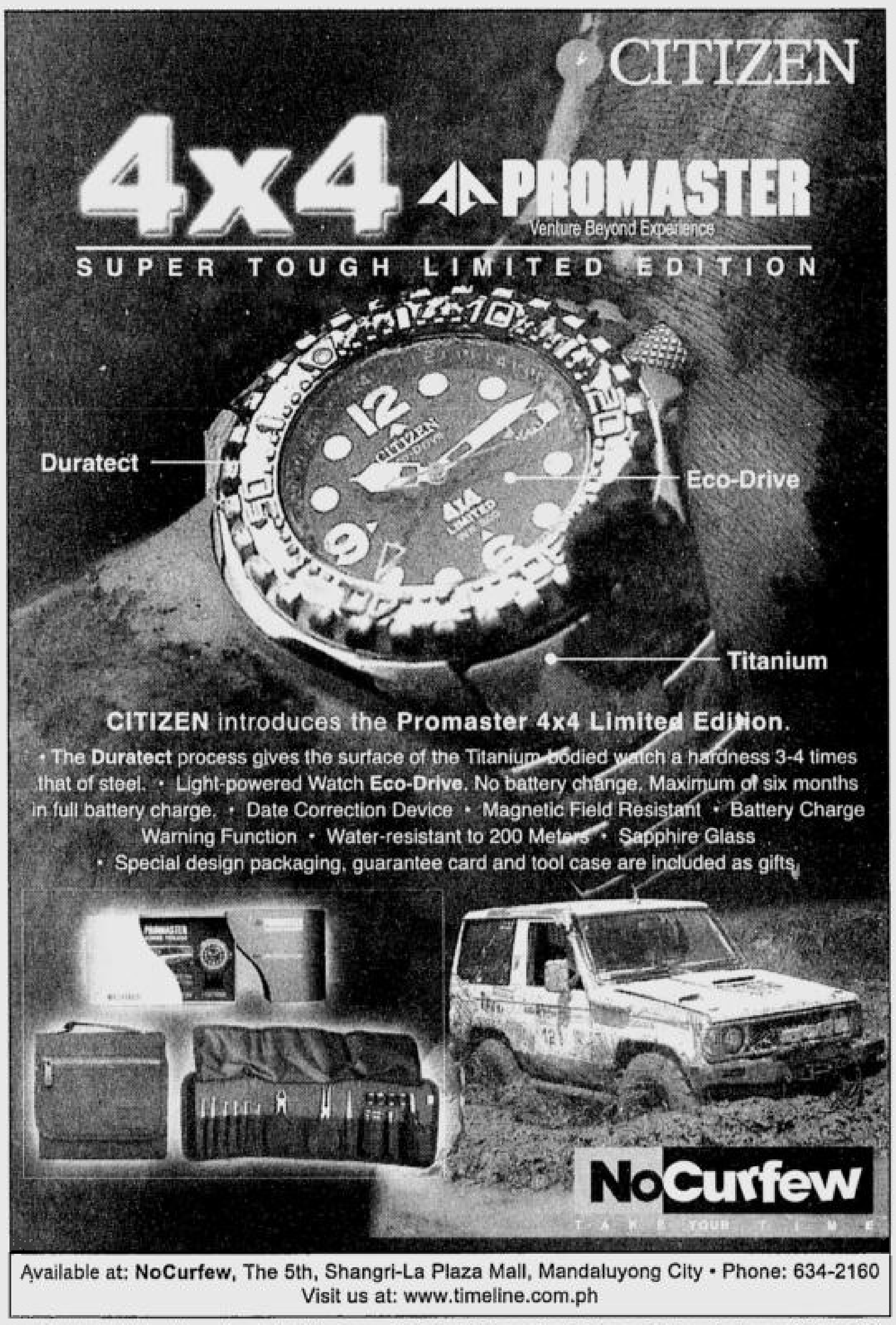
The INQUIRER learned Yap is receiving a monthly salary of P18,000, not bad for a PBL player. Salgado said that Yap did not have a contract, but this doesn't mean that ICTSI has no right on him.

"But he (Yap) had received his monthly salary without fail in the Chairman's Cup. This meant he agreed fully with this amount," Salgado noted. "The PBL is a big step toward making the pros and ICTSI wants to instill professionalism to its players.

PBL Commissioner Chino Trinidad threw his support to ICTSI.

"Yap needs to secure his release paper from ICTSI in order to play for other teams," said Trinidad.

"There is a gentleman's agreement among the team owners regarding when this kind of situation arises."



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# METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

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# Ten suspects in lotto winner's slay fall

**By NELSON FORTE FLORES**

TEN suspects in last Monday's slaying of Arturo Eupeña, a 58-year-old lotto winner in Antipolo City, were arrested yesterday morning.

Police, who made the announcement, have launched a manhunt for two other suspects.

Arrested were Francisco Areque, 26; Rolando Velasco, 36; Renato Rasonado, 23; Samuel Guiba, 40; Luisito Caindoy, 20; Aurelio Omega, 51; Eric Penalosa, 24; Noel Pinoso Olmoroto, 30l; Lito Abarico, 43; and Joselito Rose, 39. They were in two different sitios in Barangay San Jose, Antipolo City when arrested during a five-hour operation which began about 9 p.m. Wednesday.

Police recovered Eupeña's brand-new Toyota Hi-Ace van with conduction sticker 63 XLE worth P1.3 million, an improvised shotgun with ammunition, a Beretta 9 mm. toy gun, and a .45 caliber pistol with seven live ammunition, which is believed to have been used in killing the victim.

Police added that Velasco, when arrested, was recuperating from a gunshot wound he reportedly sustained while robbing Eupeña.

The victim allegedly was able to fire his gun, a .45 caliber pistol, hitting Velasco in the shoulder before he was killed.

It was not clear whether the same .45 caliber pistol was used by the suspects in killing the victim.

Two other suspects, identified only as Andy and Bert, were still being sought.

Supt. Jose Dayco, Antipolo City police chief, said he began to move after receiving A-1 information about the suspects. He added that much of their time during the operation were spent casing the reported hideouts of the suspects in a number of depressed sitios in Barangay San Jose, Antipolo City.

Dayco added that the first to be arrested was Guiba. He said the victim's van was found in his possession.

Dayco also said that, while being interrogated, Guiba named and led policemen to the hiding places of the other gang members.

At the police station, Arique and Velasco began accusing each other as the mastermind of the incident. They also identified Rasonada as the man who pulled the trigger on the victim, Dayco said.

Dayco explained that he earlier tagged the victim's wife, Leticia, and his adopted son, Reynan, as a matter

TEN/ A22

**A MAIN suspect in the lotto winner slay is held. More photos on page 22**

# Justice sought for slain Triple V delivery driver

**By Alcuin Papa**

AN ANGRY Vic-Vic Villavicencio is calling for justice for the slain Triple V delivery driver who was gunned down the other day by a security guard after a parking squabble in Quezon City.

Villavicencio, owner of the Triple V chain of restaurants, also told the INQUIRER in a phone interview Wednesday that Quezon City police should resolve the case of the death of Fernando Quinto, 33, of Fairview, Quezon City.

Quinto died of gunshot wounds to the head and abdomen after he was shot by Cefriano Dominguez, a security guard of recruitment agency El Grecco Manning company, located at the corner of Sct. Esguerra and Quezon Avenue, Barangay South Triangle, Quezon City.

The suspect fled the scene of the shooting right after the incident.

Villavicencio called the shooting a "murder."

"*Kawawa naman yung* driver *namin*. We are asking the police to resolve the incident and get to the bottom of the case," Villavicencio said.

He added that he would extend financial assistance to the family of Quinto. "In our company all our employees are like family. We will extend financial help but we also want justice."

According to the investigation of PO2 Edwin dela Cruz of the CPD Criminal Investigation Unit, the incident occurred at around 10:30 a.m. in front of the establishment guarded by Dominguez.

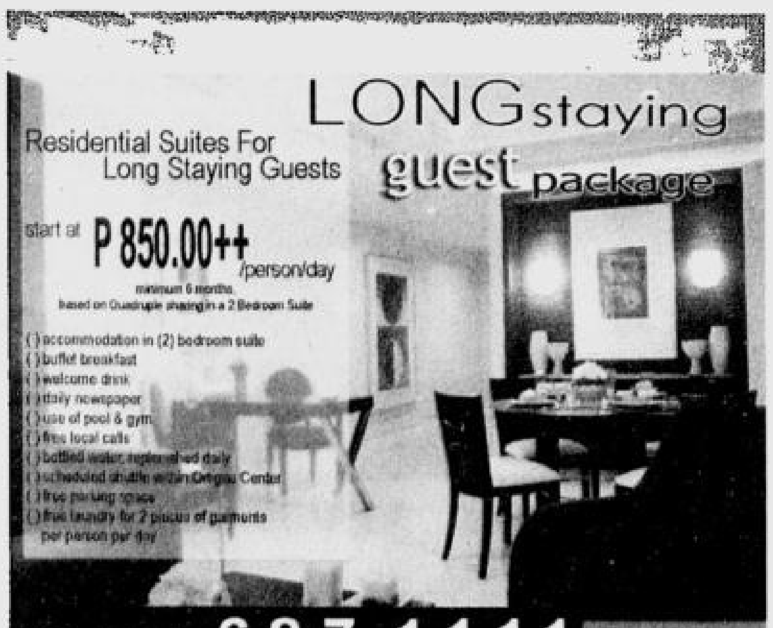
Just before the killing, it was revealed that Quinto had parked his van in front of the El Grecco Manning.

Dominguez then accosted Quinto to park his van somewhere else. The victim reportedly tried to appeal to the security guard to allow him to park in front of the establishment.

Without any sufficient provocation, the suspect reportedly pulled out his service shotgun and fired at the victim at close range.

Witnesses also told police that when the victim lay bloodied on the ground, the suspect pulled out his service pistol and shot the victim in the head.

Dominguez then fled to an unknown destination after the shooting.



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# There'll be full security, but check tempers

**By Christian V. Esguerra, Philip Tubeza, Leila Salaverria and Tina Santos**

"VISIT the dead and don't let the dead visit you."

Police yesterday assured the public of strict security measures to keep terrorists at bay as the country commemorates All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.

Aside from being vigilant against terrorist attacks, cemetery visitors will also be a lot safer if they keep their tempers in check, according to Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando.

He also appealed to cemetery visitors to follow the anti-terrorism measures imposed for the duration of the four-day holiday which ends on Sunday.

"Allow your bags to be inspected, and as much as possible, bring only the necessities," Fernando said.

Speaking during the weekly Newsstand forum at the Ambassador Hotel in Manila, Supt. Pedro Bulaong, Western Police District chief, downplayed the threat from terrorists this holiday.

"We (received) no specific threat (from terrorists)," Bulaong said. "All we have are general information."

Aside from deploying 1,200 uniformed and non-uniformed policemen, authorities also deployed at least 50 police cars to patrol cemeteries, shopping malls, and other vital installations in Manila.

Chief Supt. Jose Gutierrez, Southern Police Distric director, also warned of pranksters who are out to spread bombing rumors.

Around 100 Air Force men have been tapped to jack up security in the district's 22 cemeteries, Gutierrez said during the forum.

Around 180 officers from the National Capital Region Police Office were also detailed in Pasay, Makati, Muntinlupa, Las Piñas, Parañaque, Pateros, and Taguig, according to Gutierrez.

Yesterday, the SPD chief said security was beefed up in the 13 bus terminals in Pasay which were likely targets of terrorist attacks.

Dante Lantin, chair of the Land Transportation, Franchising and Regulatory Board, said each bus terminal in Metro Manila will have its own "action center" to address complaints and other concerns of commuters.

More K-9 dogs from the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Presidential Security Group will be deployed in key areas in the metropolis as part of the "Oplan Kaluluwa" of the Department of Transportation and Communication.

Yesterday, Fernando urged people to rein in their tempers to prevent violent incidents that could cost them their lives.

"Let's keep our cool," Fernando yesterday said in an interview aired over dzBB. "The shooting incident in the parking lot of the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina was caused by a simple argument over a parking space."

Fernando was referring to the 1998 All Saints' Day incident that claimed the life of Feliber Andres, who was eight months pregnant when she was shot to death, but not before giving birth to a baby girl.

Andres' two-year-old son and 6-year-old nephew, who were with her in the same vehicle, were also hurt.

Andres' husband had a heated argument with businessman Inocencio Gonzales' son during All Saints' Day as the two families were leaving Loyola.

Gonzales lost his temper, drew his gun and started shooting Andres' vehicle, hitting the pregnant victim in the head.

People began trooping to the cemeteries yesterday. At the Makati Catholic Cemetery, people began cleaning and painting the tombstones of their loved ones despite the heat of the noonday sun. The number of visitors is expected to swell today. Northern Police District Office director Marcelino Franco Jr. yesterday said his men confiscated bladed weapons from several visitors to cemeteries in the Camanava area.

"Most of the people caught with the weapons argued that they meant to use them to clean the tombs," Franco said. "But we did not allow as we have to prevent any untoward incident from happening."

*With Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

**A BOMB-SNIFFING dog mingles with the people visiting their dear departed at the North Cemetery in Manila.**

ERIK ARAZAS

# Terrorized ghost?

**By Philip Tubeza**

"GHOST employee."

This was how employees of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board yesterday described MTRCB chair Mari-len Dinglasan.

Members of the MTRCB Employees' Association Incorporated held a rally at Mendiola yesterday and urged Malacanang to "forcefully remove" Dinglasan from the office of the MTRCB chair in Diliman, Quezon City and replace her immediately.

While her appointment expired on Sept. 30, Dinglasan continues to report for work as chair of the censors body, the group said.

"She comes in after 5:30 p.m. and works at night. She has even dismissed two drivers without due process," said Teody Navea, Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino officer for the public sector.

Navea noted that on Oct. 16, Malacañang declared that the post of MTRCB chair and vice-chair were already vacant.

But he said Dinglasan continues to hold office, insisting that she is doing it in a "hold-over" capacity until the Palace appoints a new MTRCB chair.

"Dinglasan defied the order of Malacañang and still insists on reporting for work just to terrorize the employees and get back at those who want her out," the group said in a statement.

Dinglasan earlier said that there was a "well-orchestrated" campaign by several MTRCB employees to terrorize and oust her from office.

She said this happened after she conducted a crackdown upon discovering alleged anomalies in the financial activities of the censors body.

The employees accused her of nepotism and grave abuse of authority.

## *All Saints' Day wish*

THE FAMILY of Baron Cervantes is hoping national police chief Hermogenes Ebdane would give the slain government informant a treat on All Saints Day by arresting Supt. Rafael Cardeno, the alleged mastermind of the killing.

Cervantes' elder brother Lloyd yesterday urged Ebdane to make good his promise to offer a bounty for Cardeno's arrest.

Edbane, he said, had promised to announce the bounty once a Las Piñas Regional Trial Court has issued an arrest warrant for the fugitive chair of the Young Officers' Union. Lloyd said Ebdane made the promise when the Cervantes family met with President Macapagal-Arroyo early last month.

*Christian Esguerra*

# Erap sleeps on pills; Jinggoy dreams of Merry Christmas with kids

**BARE EYE**

*Recah Trinidad*

WE would've been marking a very disturbed All Saints' Day had the fire inside the detention room of former President Joseph Estrada at the Veterans Memorial Hospital struck much later, say, past midnight.

Erap Estrada, who has been detained in the hospital on plunder charges, could've perished in the Monday night fire.

Yes, his father could've died in the blaze, according to Jinggoy Estrada, son of the deposed chief executive whom we had the opportunity to visit on Wednesday.

Jinggoy, looking trim and fit, swore he was not exaggerating.

He said the blaze was already smoldering inside his father's room when they forcibly opened its door.

The young Estrada, who was also being detained in an adjacent room, said an alert room boy who promptly operated a fire extinguisher helped prevent further damage.

***

**The fire, it was later discovered, was caused by faulty wiring behind the room television set.**

**The former President was being interviewed by a television crew when fire struck around 7 p.m. Monday.**

**There was commotion and the interview had to be put off.**

**The place was turned into a mess.**

**Hospital hands were still putting the final touches to the repair job, there was a strong smell of paint thinner when this reporter paid Erap and Jinggoy Estrada a visit Wednesday afternoon.**

***

How could've Erap Estrada been trapped if he was not inside his room when fire struck?

No, that would've not been the case, Jinggoy explained. His father would've indeed rushed out of the room if he were awake at the time of the blaze.

However, there would have been a fatal result, Jinggoy explained, if the accident happened after midnight, maybe around 2 a.m.

Jinggoy said he doubts seriously if his father, who now has to take sleeping pills regularly, would've been roused by the blaze.

In fact, Jinggoy said they themselves had to jump out of the place to prevent being choked after the door to Erap's bedroom was opened and the place was instantly enveloped in smoke.

***

**Erap Estrada, in salmon-pink shirt, confirmed Jinggoy's contention. He confided that he indeed has to resort to pills in order to put himself to sleep. (Details of an exclusive interview with the former President will appear here in a later column.)**

**Jinggoy, whose children are now in the United States with his mother, Sen. Loi Estrada, said he was thankful that the fire, which hopefully was not part of a sabotage, happened before midnight.**

**Jinggoy however expressed extreme displeasure over a television report that used stolen shots of him smoking a cigarette.**

**Jinggoy said he did not find anything exactly wrong with that, but what he rued was the failure of the reporter to record what he was really doing when the shots were stolen.**

**Jinggoy said he was actually training with a boxing instructor, he had just punished the bags, but had to take a brief break to accommodate a few visitors.**

**He said he served merienda and took the occasion to light a cigarette.**

***

He said there was malice because the stolen shots made it appear that he was having a leisurely vacation, enjoying a regular picnic while in detention.

He said detention was hell and, in trying not to be miserable, he has hired a boxing hand, Boy Moring, who helps him keep fit while giving boxing basics.

Jinggoy says he works out in the helipad area at least three times a week.

Jinggoy, usually pudgy, indeed appears trim and healthy.

This, of course, is not the case with his father, Jinggoy said, who is not even allowed to step out of his lonely and cramped detention room.

Jinggoy said he foresees a long, excruciating trial for his father.

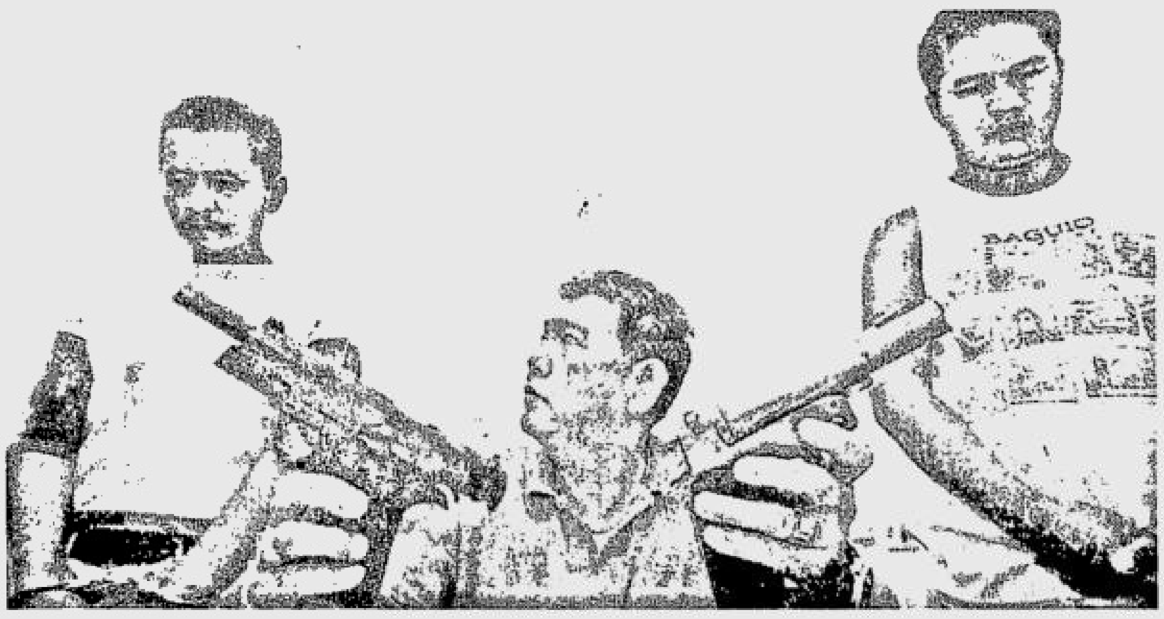
For his part, Jinggoy says he sees a ray of hope as his petition for bail was finally being heard.

He said a decision should be forthcoming late November.

He, together with his father, was not allowed to visit the cemetery to honor departed loved ones today.

But Jinggoy, who threatens to become a prizefighter, dreams of going home for Christmas.

Jinggoy rues that it was made to appear he was having a regular picnic while in detention



**Antipolo Police P/Sr. Supt. Jose Dayco (above) presents to media Rolando Velasco and Francisco Areges, alleged masterminds in the killing of lotto winner Arturo Eupena. The officer also shows the guns allegedly used in the robbery-killing. Relatives of the victim (right) inspect the brand-new Toyota Grandia that was taken by the assailants but later recovered by members of the Antipolo police.**

RANDY HONMILLOSA

# Ten suspects in lotto winner's slay fall

From page A21

of police practice. He said a good investigator considers every possibility and individual, including everyone who is in the proximity of a crime scene and those who have possible motives, as suspects.

Dayco admitted that they faced a blank wall until a number of information trickled in.

He also clarified that it was the victim's wife who won the P19 million lotto prize but added he got a report that the victim also won in the national lottery, although he took home a smaller prize.

Police records showed that the robbery-slaying happened about 1 a.m. last Monday inside the victim's house at Block 9 Lot 2 Nazarene Ville, Barangay San Roque, Antipolo City after another drinking session and while the victim was fast asleep. Merry making sessions had been a regular happening at the victim's house since he and his wife won in the national lottery.

into the house of the victim and shot him at close range when he allegedly tried to resist. The robbers then left and took with them the newly bought Toyota Hi-Ace van of the family.

Meanwhile, Dayco said robbery with homicide charges would be filed against the suspects before the Antipolo City Prosecutors Office.

Reynan Eupeña, 31, expressed relief after learning of the arrests.

## METROBRIEFS

### Dirty Japanese

JAPANESE tourist Takahasi Satoshi, 28, yesterday reported to police that he had lost about P500,000 when a taxi driver drove off with his belongings in Manila while he went to the toilet. But investigators said that they doubted his story. "He was untidy and he spoke fluent Filipino," said a policeman. "I think he was just after some insurance money."

*Philip C. Tubeza*

### Drug slays

UNIDENTIFIED men on Wednesday shot dead a man and a woman suspected of being drug users at the Maharlika Village in Taguig. Eduardo Paningbatan, chief of the Taguig Station Investigation and Intelligence Division said that the shooting could be connected to a drug deal.

*Christian V. Esguerra*

### Butt fancier

POLICE on Wednesday arrested Chris Batobato of Masagana Street in Caloocan after Irene Poblete, Sangguniang Kabataan chair of Barangay 74, complained that he, had grabbed her buttocks. Police Officer 1 Maria Cecilia Mendoza of the Caloocan Police Women's and Children's Desk said Poblete was talking to her companions on the street when a drunken Batobato crept behind her. Angry residents beat up Batobato before he was arrested by barangay officials and turned over to police.

*Tina Santos*

### Slain by ex-con

BOEYET GARCIA, of Libis, Baesa, on Wednesday was stabbed to death by his neighbor Eduardo Escupin, an ex-convict, during a drinking session. Barangay watchmen arrested Escupin and turned him over to police.

*Tina Santos*

### 15 bullets

FORMER overseas contract worker Rudy Kusa Mustaym 45, of Tandang Sora in Quezon City, was hawking pirated VCDs when he was shot to death yesterday. A total of 15 bullets were pumped into his body, police said. Witnesses told police that they saw several men confronting the victim before the shooting. Ismael Pagayoro, a barangay *kagawad* in the area, said that the victim was not a resident of the area but went there frequently to peddle his goods.

*Alcuin Papa*

**MASTERPIECES**

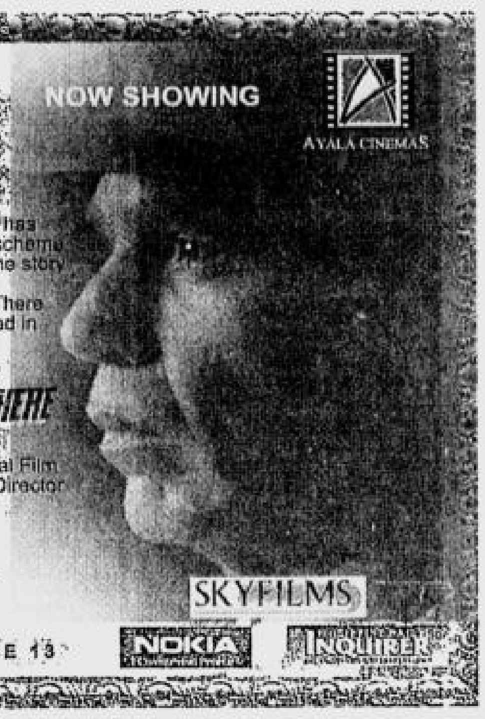
**Dr. Nemesio E. Prudente, president Emeritus of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, launched his much-awaited novel The Revolutionists recently at the PUP's Balagtas Hall. Prudente is shown at right in an exchange of masterpieces with Prof. Ave Perez Jacob whose Ang Pagdating Ni Elias Plaridel At Iba Pang Piling Mga Kuwento, an anthology, was also launched earlier this year by the university. Looking on are director Dante A. Prudente of the PUP's Marcelo H. del Pilar campus (back, left), and Director Romulo T. Martin, of Sentro ng Kaunlarang Pantao under the PUP's Office of the Vice President for Research and Development.**

**ArtFilm Greenbelt 1** NOW SHOWING

AYALA CINEMAS

Shot in black and white, THE MAN WHO WASN'T THERE is an edgy film noir from the Minnesota-based Coen brothers, about an unhappy barber (Billy Bob Thornton) living in California in the mid-1940s discovers that his wife (Frances McDormand) has been unfaithful to him, and concocts a blackmailing scheme to teach her a lesson. But when his plan backfires, the story becomes embroiled in murderous plots and ugly consequences .The Man Who Wasn't There is a tale of passion, crime & punishment, all presented in glorious black-and-white.

THE MAN WHO WASN'T THERE



In its world premiere at the 2001 Cannes International Film Festival, The Man Who Wasn't There won the Best Director Award.

*"...one of the best films of the year."*
--- Nev Pierce, BBC

*"...a beautifully executed film that is remarkable on many, many levels."*
--- Paul Clinton, CNN

MTRCB RATING: PARENTAL GUIDANCE 13

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5 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
6 BALISTIC ECK VS' SEVER
7 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
8 NINE MORNING
9 JEANIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
10 SINGSING NI LOLA

**Pearl Plaza Cinemas**
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1
2
3
4
5
6
Golden Pearl THX

**Masagana CINEMA 1 2 3**
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 : 833.3274
1 SINGSING NI LOLA
2 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
3 HUWAG MONG TAKASAN ANG BATAS

**starmall Movies**
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 SINGSING NI LOLA
2 JEANIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
3 BED TIME STORY
4 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
5 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN

**METROPOLIS star**
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 JEANIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
2 BED TIME STORY
3 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
4 SINGSING NI LOLA
5 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
6 BALISTIC ECK VS' SEVER

**M star**
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel 873.5004
1 SOON TO OPEN
2 SOON TO OPEN

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(Makati City) tel 751.2010 to 13
PREMIERE NIGHT
"CHANGING LANES" OCT. 30, 7:30 PM
OCT. 30, E HALLOWEEN PARTY TIME 9:30 PM
OCT. 31, HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION 9:30 PM
OCT. 31, NOV. 3, STA CLAUS-2 STARTS AT 5 PM

**Center Plaza Cinema**
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 TUXEDO
2 NINE MORNING

**Sunshine**
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
2 HUWAG MONG TAKASAN ANG BATAS
3 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
4 BED TIME STORY

**GOTESCO CINEMA**

**Gotesco City**
(Manila) tel 734.8588
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4 HUWAG MONG TAKASAN ANG BATAS
5 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
6 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
7 RED DRAGON
8 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
9 HALLOWEEN RESURRETION

**Gotesco Caloocan**
tel 362.3508
2 RESERVE

**Gotesco Grand Central**
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928
1 SINGSING NI LOLA
2 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
3 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
4 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
5 NINE MORNING
6 RED DRAGON
7 HUWAG MONG TAKASAN ANG BATAS
8 MUNTING TINIG
9 BED TIME STORY

**Gotesco Commonwealth**
tel 951.0082
1 NINE MORNING
2 SINGSING NI LOLA
3 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
4 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
5 RED DRAGON

**Gotesco Ortigas**
tel 656.6795
1 NINE MORNING
2 SINGSING NI LOLA
3 BED TIME STORY
4 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
5 SWEET HOME ALABAMA

**Universal**
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 SINGSING NI LOLA

**Sampaquita**
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 SINGSING NI LOLA

**Dilson**
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson BED TIME STORY
Lovely HUWAG MONG TAKASAN ANG BATAS
Jennet ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN

**MARKETPLACE**
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
2 SINGSING NI LOLA
3 BED TIME STORY

**Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto**
**SUPER CINERAMA**
tel 733.4238
1 BED TIME STORY
2 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
3 HUWAG MONG TAKASAN ANG BATAS
4 SINGSING NI LOLA
5 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG

**FRC Cinema**
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

**Berma Cinema**
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
2 SINGSING NI LOLA

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
**Araneta**
**MALL CINEPLEX 7**
tel 911.3101 loc. 821 8242 8400
1 SINGSING NI LOLA
2 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
3 RED DRAGON
4 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
5 BALISTIC ECK VS' SEVER
6 NINE MORNING
7 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION

**FarmersPlaza CINEMAS**
tel 911.3101 loc. 821 8242 8400
1 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
2 SINGSING NI LOLA

**CINEMA 2000**

**Cinema 2000 Target Mall**
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 : 534.2198
1 BED TIME STORY
2 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
3 SINGSING NI LOLA

**Cinema 2000 Waltermart**
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 NINE MORNING
2 SINGSING NI LOLA
3 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
4 SWEET HOME ALABAMA

**Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall**
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 SINGSING NI LOLA
2 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
3 NINE MORNING
4 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG

**Cinema 2000 Cinemagix**
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 NINE MORNING
2 SINGSING NI LOLA
3 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
4 RESERVE

**Cinema 2000 MetroTown**
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729
1 SINGSING NI LOLA
2 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
3 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
4 BLOOD WORK

**Magic Star Cinema**
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305
1 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
2 SINGSING NI LOLA
3 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KALANG

**Lianas Cinema**
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 MUNTING TINIG
2 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
3 BEDTIME STORY
4 HUWAG MONG TAKASAN ANG BATAS

**Lianas MovieCity**
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
2 SINGSING NI LOLA
3 BEDTIME STORY
4 BLOOD WORK
5 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KALANG

**Olivarez Tri-Cinema**
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KALANG
2 SINGSING NI LOLA
3 BEDTIME STORY

**Olivarez Los Baños**
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1 SINGSING NI LOLA
2 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KALANG
3 SWEET HOME ALABAMA

**Mega Center Mall**
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 POSSESSION
2 TUXEDO
3 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KALANG
4 SINGSING NI LOLA

**Cabuyao**
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1 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KALANG
2 RESERVE

**Emperor**
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 MASIKIP MAINIT...
2 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KALANG
3 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION

**Fiesta World Mall**
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KALANG
2 MR. DEEDS
3 MASIKIP MAINIT
4 PLUTO NASH

**Jade Cinema**
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 RED DRAGON
2 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KALANG
3 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
4 POSSESSION

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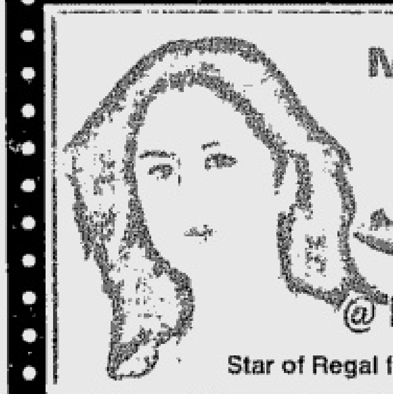

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5 STA. CLAUSE 2
6 SINGSING NI LOLA
7 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
8 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION

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1 SINGSING NI LOLA
2 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
3 GHOST SHIP
4 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
5 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
6 BEDTIME STORIES
7 STA. CLAUSE 2
8 RED DRAGON
9 9 MORNINGS
10 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG

**SM CITY FAIRVIEW**
9350749
1 PLUTO NASH
2 BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER
3 9 MORNINGS
4 STA. CLAUSE 2
5 RED DRAGON
6 SINGSING NI LOLA
7 GHOST SHIP
8 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
9 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
10 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
11 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
12 BEDTIME STORIES

**SM CITY MANILA**
5239240
1 GHOST SHIP
2 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
3 RED DRAGON
4 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
5 STA. CLAUSE 2
6 BROTHERWOOD OF THE WOLF
7 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
8 BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER
9 SINGSING NI LOLA
10 BEDTIME STORIES
11 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
12 9 MORNINGS

**SM MEGAMALL**
6331901 • 6329401
1 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
2 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
3 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
4 GHOST SHIP
5 RED DRAGON
6 BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF
7 BEDTIME STORIES
8 9 MORNINGS
9 SINGSING NI LOLA
10 STA. CLAUSE 2
11 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
12 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN

**SM CITY NORTH EDSA**
9295452
1 9 MORNINGS
2 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
3 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
4 SINGSING NI LOLA
5 STA. CLAUSE 2
6 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
7 RED DRAGON
8 GHOST SHIP

**SM SOUTHMALL**
8066868
1 9 MORNINGS
2 RED DRAGON
3 STA. CLAUSE 2
4 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
5 BEDTIME STORIES
6 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
7 SINGSING NI LOLA
8 GHOST SHIP
9 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
10 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN

**SM CITY CEBU**
2313676
1 RED DRAGON
2 MR.DEEDS
3 BALLISTIC: ECKS VS.
4 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
5 BEDTIME STORIES
6 GHOST SHIP
7 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
8 SINGSING NI LOLA

**SM CITY ILOILO**
3209422
1 BIRTHDAY GIRL
2 CLOSED
3 THE TOUCH
4 SINGSING NI LOLA
5 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
6 MR. DEEDS
7 CLOSED
8 POSSESSION

**SM CITY PAMPANGA**
7128015
1 GHOST SHIP
2 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
3 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
4 9 MORNINGS
5 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
6 SINGSING NI LOLA

**SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT**
8294575
1 STA. CLAUSE 2
2 GHOST SHIP
3 SINGSING NI LOLA
4 SWEET HOME ALABAMA

**SM CINEMA TUTUBAN**
2514302
1 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
2 SINGSING NI LOLA
3 STA. CLAUSE 2
4 GHOST SHIP

**SM CITY DAVAO**
2976998
1 BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER
2 MR. DEEDS
3 SINGSING NI LOLA
4 RED DRAGON
5 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
6 BLOODWORK

**SM BICUTAN**
1
2
3
4
WATCH OUT FOR THE OPENING ON NOVEMBER 29, 2002

**SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO**
1
2
3
4
WATCH OUT FOR THE OPENING ON NOVEMBER 15, 2002

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11:40 FS/12:10 MF/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50/
10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:40 END

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1:10 FS/1:40 MF/4:00/6:20/8:40/
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5 SINGSING NI LOLA
6 GHOST SHIP
7 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
8 RED DRAGON
9 BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SERVER
10 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
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3 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
4 SANTA CLAUSE
5 SINGSING NI LOLA
6 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
7 GHOST SHIP

**Metro East -** Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280
1 JEANNIE... BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG?
2 GHOST SHIP
3 SANTA CLAUSE
4 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
5 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
6 SINGSING NI LOLA
7 RED DRAGON
8 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN

**Novaliches** 935- 3229 - 30
1 9 GHOST SHIP
2 RED DRAGON
3 SANTA CLAUSE
4 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
5 JEANNIE...BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG?
6 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
7 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
8 SINGSING NI LOLA

**Imus** 471- 8188 / 875- 3838
1 GHOST SHIP
2 SANTA CLAUSE
3 SINGSING NI LOLA
4 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
5 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
6 JEANNIE...BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG?

**Bacolod** 441- 0453 / 0459
1 MR. DEEDS
2 BLOODWORKS
3 BESTMAN
4 BIRTHDAY GIRL
5 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
6 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION

**Iloilo** 336- 8077 - 78
1 MR. DEEDS
2 POSSESSION
3 BIRTHDAY GIRL
4 THE TOUCH
5 SINGSING NI LOLA
6 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION

**Star Mills-** Sn Fernando, Pamp. 875- 1927 961- 5318 / 5270
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4 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
5 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
6 SWEET HOME ALABAMA

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Send to : 2333 Globe / 225 Smart

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# Demi Moore on the comeback trail

From page A25

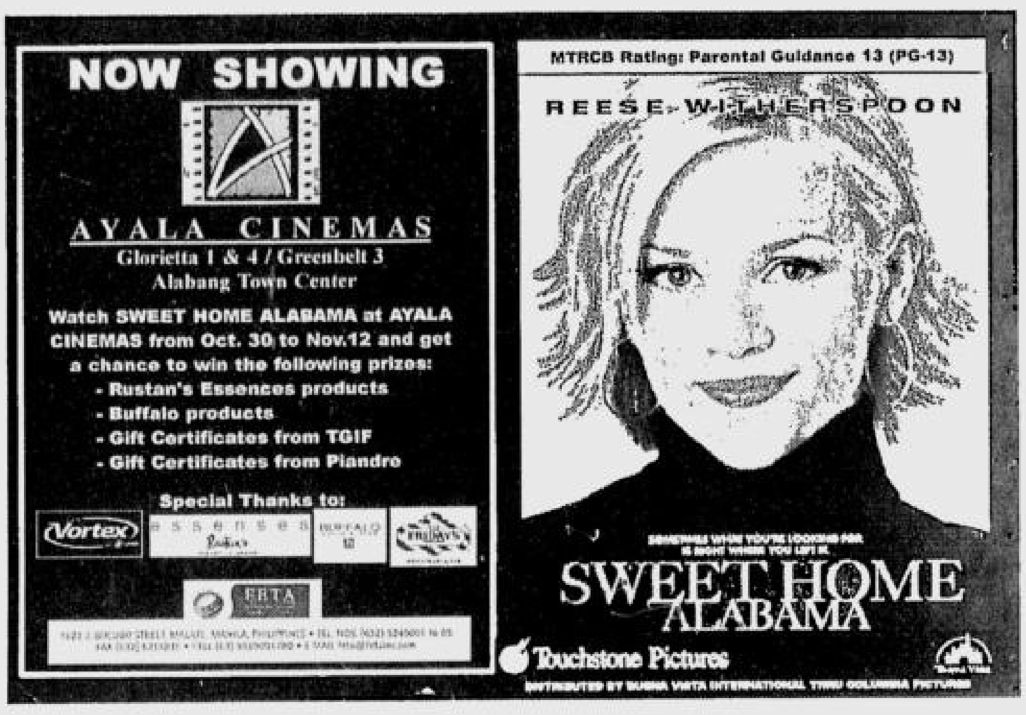
ty, aside from qualifications, in the quest for elective office.

On the *other* hand, perhaps the anti-star people may be jumping the gun in FPJ's case. He *could* turn out to be sincere, hardworking and effective.

Also, some of his prospective rivals may be learned and experienced, but they don't have much else to recommend them, either. FPJ's backers can't really be blamed for wanting to gamble on him, for a change.

## THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

| MANILA | |
|---|---|
| EASTERN | |
| MAXIM | CLOSED |
| MIRAMAR | MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS / LAMAN |
| ODEON | GHOST SHIP |
| ODEON-2 | BABAHA NG DUGO / KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO |
| ROBEN | BOMBA QUEEN |
| TANDEM-1 | SUGAT |
| TANDEM-2 | KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO |
| TIMES | MIB / INSOMNIA |
| **QUEZON CITY** | |
| ACT-1 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| ACT-2 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| ACT-3 | ORIGINAL SIN |
| ACT-4 | HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY |
| CORONET-2 | HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY |
| QUEZON-1 | BOMBA QUEEN |
| REMAR | BOMBA QUEEN |
| REMAR-2 | HUWAG MONG TAKASAN ANG BATAS |
| **NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA** | |
| A | ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN |
| B | HUWAG TAKASAN ANG BATAS |
| C | |
| **MANDALUYONG CITY** | |
| SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL | 635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70 |
| CINEMA-1 | SANTA CLAUSE 2 |
| CINEMA-2 | GHOST SHIP |
| **CAINTA RIZAL** | |
| STA. LUCIA EAST | (681-5401 TO 19) |
| CINEMA-1 | ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN |
| CINEMA-2 | BEDTIME STORIES |
| CINEMA-3 | HUWAG MONG TAKASAN |
| CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | SINGSING NI LOLA |
| CINEMA-5 (DTS) | MUNTING TINIG |
| CINEMA-6 | BALLISTIC |
| CINEMA-7 | BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG |
| CINEMA-8 | RED DRAGON |
| CINEMA-9 (DTS) | GHOST SHIP |
| CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | SWEET HOME ALABAMA |
| CINEMA-11 (SDDS) | HALLOWEEN RESSURECTION |
| CINEMA-12 | SANTA CLAUSE 2 |
| CINEMA-14 | SINGSING NI LOLA |
| CINEMA-15 | 9 MORNINGS |
| **LORES** | |
| CINEMA-2 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-3 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| **NE-CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN** | |
| CINEMA 1 | MR. DEEDS |
| CINEMA 2 | 9 MORNINGS |
| CINEMA 3 | BESTMAN |
| CINEMA 4 | K-19 |
| **UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL** | |
| (PARANAQUE) | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-1 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| CINEMA-2 | MEN IN BLACK II |
| CINEMA-4 | SELDA |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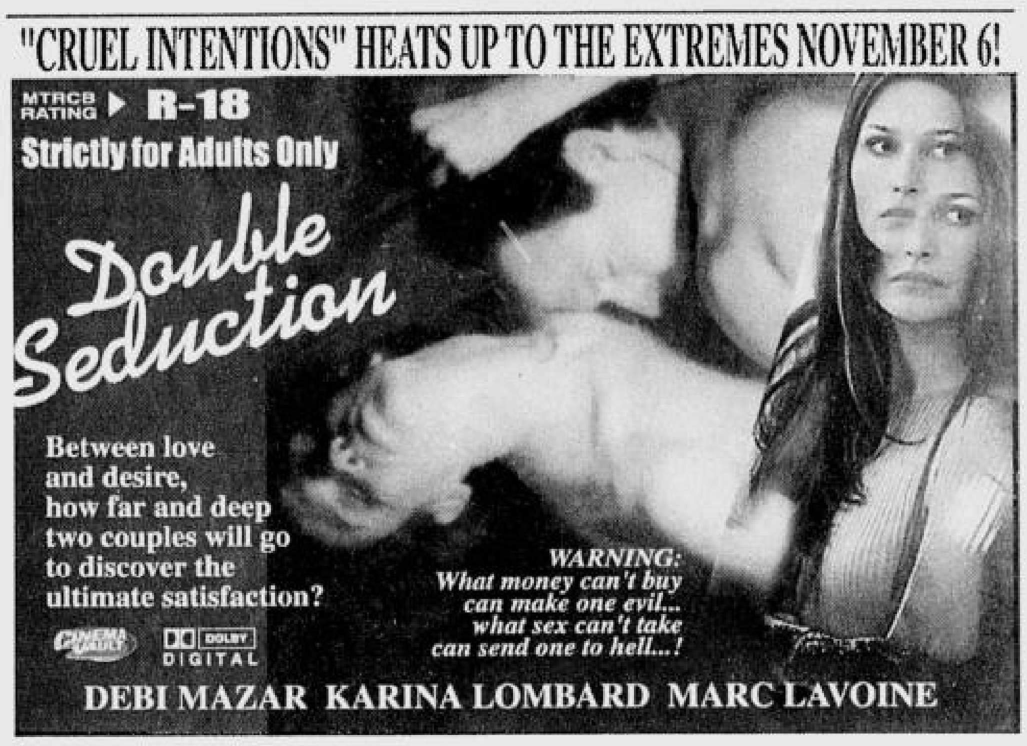
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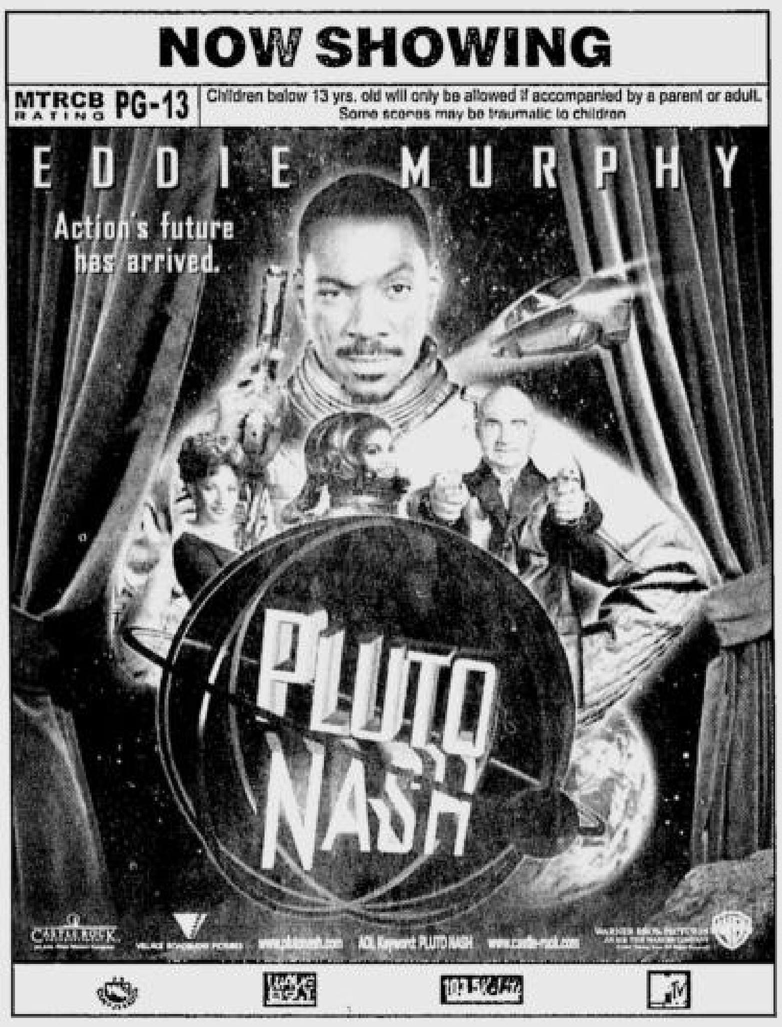
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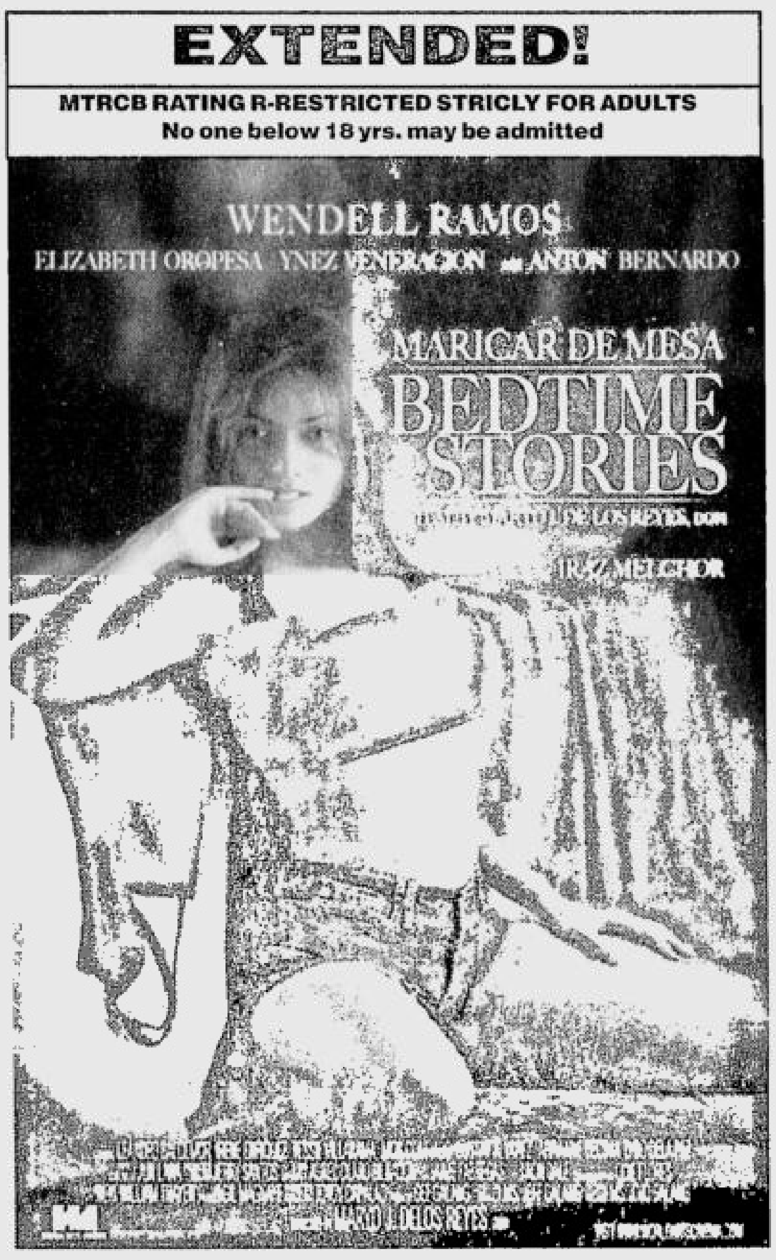
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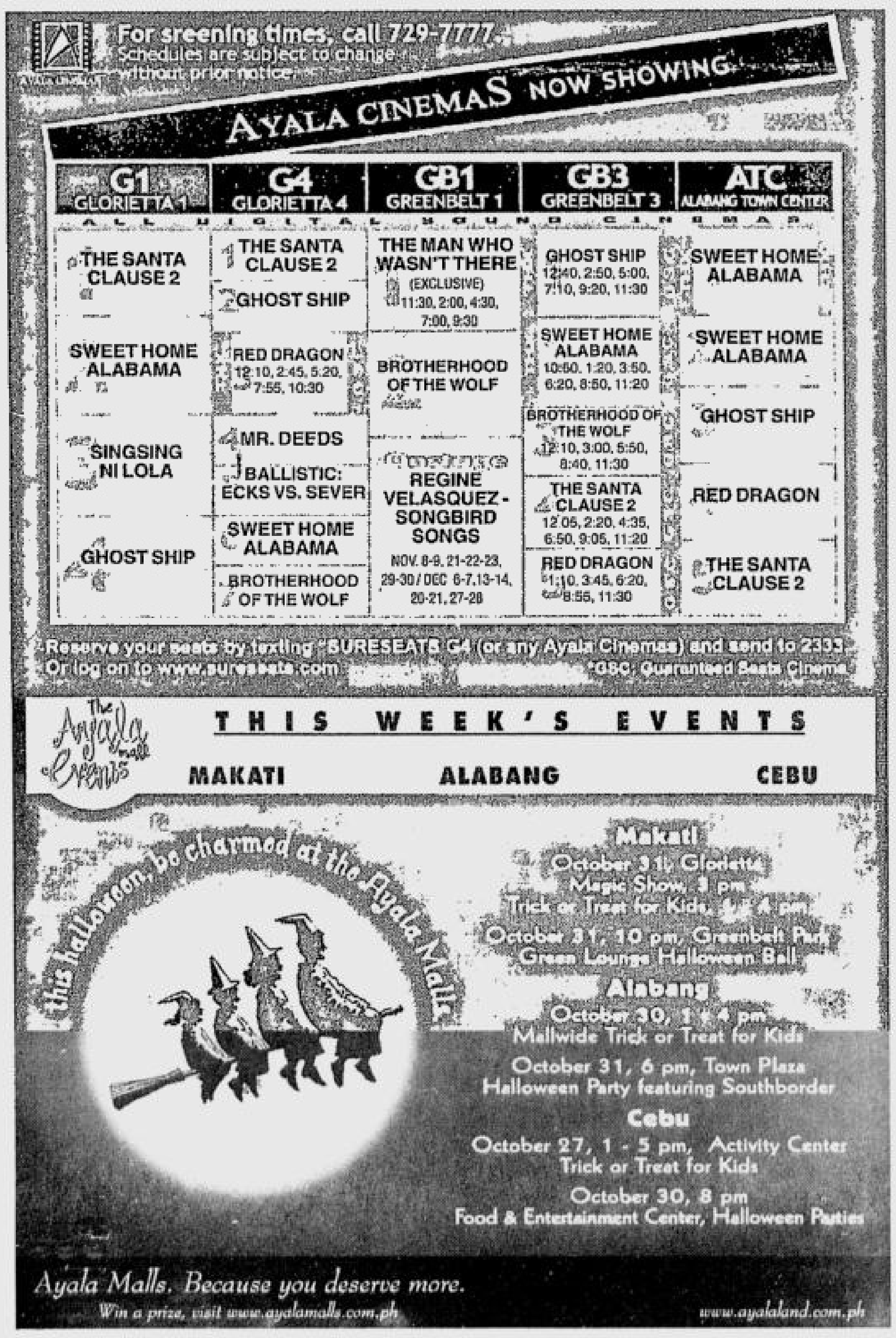
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|---|---|---|---|---|
| THE SANTA CLAUSE 2<br>SWEET HOME ALABAMA<br>SINGSING NI LOLA<br>GHOST SHIP | THE SANTA CLAUSE 2<br>GHOST SHIP<br>RED DRAGON 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30<br>MR. DEEDS<br>BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER<br>SWEET HOME ALABAMA<br>BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF | THE MAN WHO WASN'T THERE (EXCLUSIVE) 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30<br>BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF<br>REGINE VELASQUEZ - SONGBIRD SONGS NOV. 8-9, 21-22-23, 29-30 / DEC 6-7,13-14, 20-21, 27-28 | GHOST SHIP 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30<br>SWEET HOME ALABAMA 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20<br>BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF 12:10, 3:00, 5:50, 8:40, 11:30<br>THE SANTA CLAUSE 2 12:05, 2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9:05, 11:20<br>RED DRAGON 1:10, 3:45, 6:20, 8:55, 11:30 | SWEET HOME ALABAMA<br>SWEET HOME ALABAMA<br>GHOST SHIP<br>RED DRAGON<br>THE SANTA CLAUSE 2 |

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October 31, 10 pm, Greenbelt Park Green Lounge Halloween Ball

**Alabang**
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October 31, 6 pm, Town Plaza Halloween Party featuring Southborder

**Cebu**
October 27, 1 - 5 pm, Activity Center Trick or Treat for Kids
October 30, 8 pm Food & Entertainment Center, Halloween Parties

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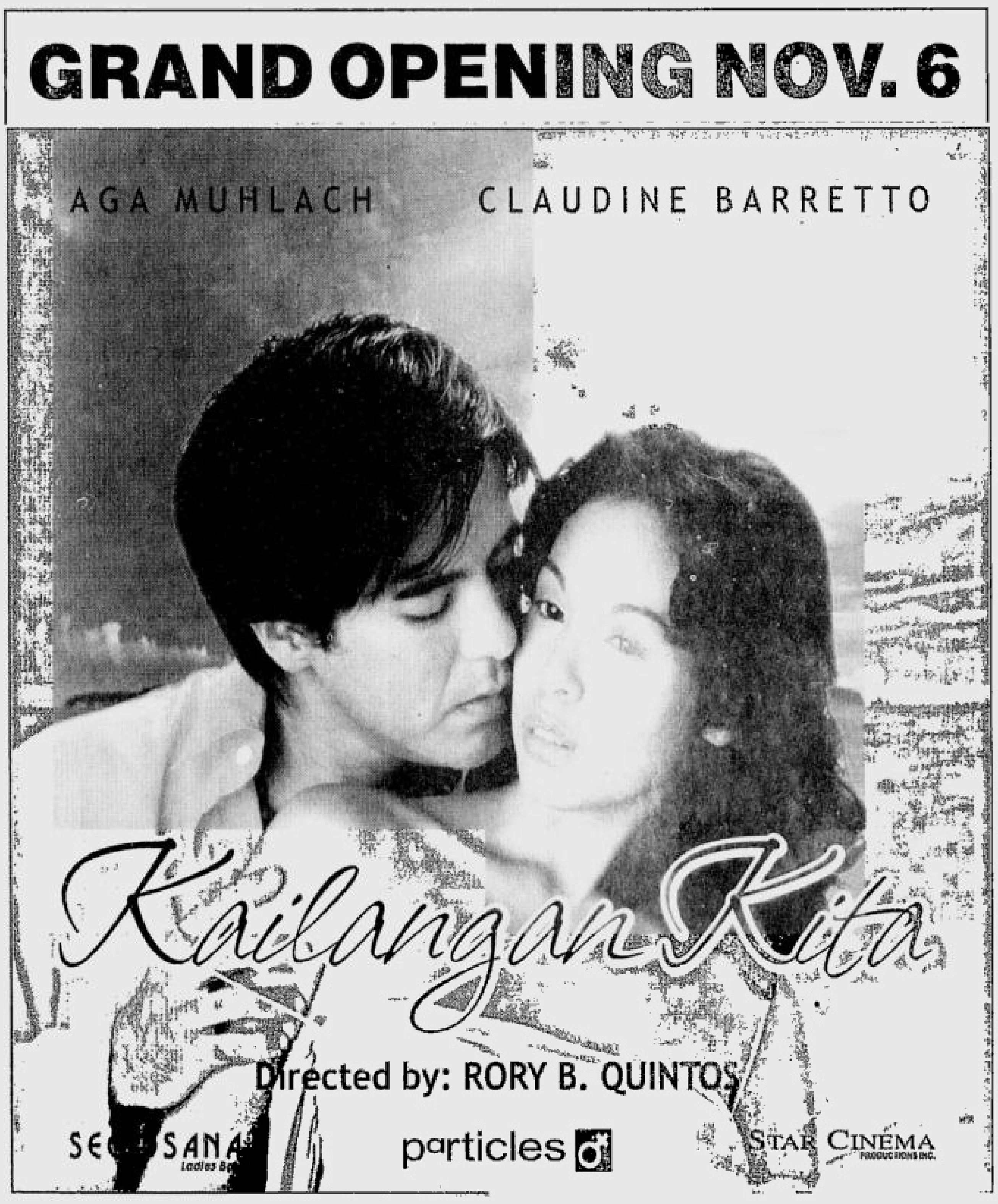
GRAND OPENING NOV. 6

AGA MUHLACH CLAUDINE BARRETTO

Directed by: RORY B. QUINTOS

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# Demi Moore

From page A26

course FPJ will win. He's even more popular than **Joseph Estrada**, who had no trouble winning the highest post of the laud.

The problem was, what he did with it. People are afraid that the same will happen in FPJ's case. What would we do then?

The solution is for voters to understand that popularity isn't everything, that people who run for public office must prove that they're qualified. And, for the highest post, only the highest qualifications should be required.

On the hand, there's no denying that popularity is a factor in elections. People who are not known don't get many votes, it's as simple as that. This is the reason why political candidates spend so much money on advertising, to make themselves known, liked and trusted.

Stars like FPJ don't have to do this, so this gives them a decided advantage in the elections. That's why non-show biz candidates complain that the playing field isn't level, that stars and other well-known people have an unfair advantage over non-celebrities who just want to serve.

But, what can be done to neutralize this unfair advantage? Legally, not much. Anyone with the basic requirements can run for public office.

There is also the truism that we deserve the leaders we elect into office. If the majority of Filipinos can't tell the difference between a star's heroic image and his actual ability to govern, then that's our collective lot as a nation, and we just have to live with it.

What qualified candidates can do is to think more long-term when they plan to go into public service or run for office.

Don't decide to run in 2004 and then get your publicity going. Plan to run in 2012 and start to get yourself known *now*. That way, by the time 2012 comes around, you shall have become popular enough to win.

There are many ways to become popular aside from going into show biz or becoming a sports hero. Any and all of these ways can be explored, in realistic acceptance of the importance of populari-

DEMI/ A24

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RAILEY VALEROSO VON ALELI CRUZ
MARJUJONI FERNANDEZ MELISSA DE LEON
RACQUEL VILLAVICENCIO GLAIZA DE CASTRO DINDIN LLARENA TJ CRUZ
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY URO Q. DELA CRUZ DGPI

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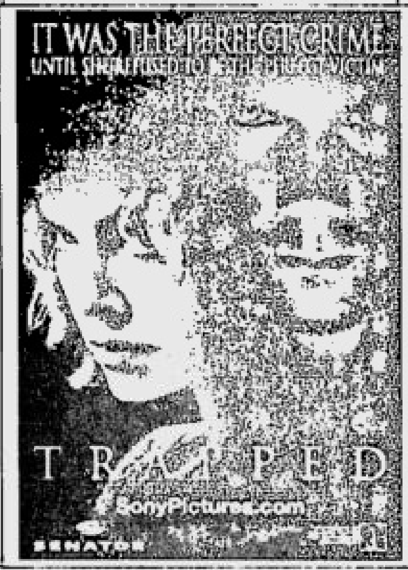
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Professional kidnappers Joe and Cheryl Hickey (Kevin Bacon, *HOLLOW MAN* and Courtney Love, *PEOPLE VS. LARRY FLYNT*) think they have mastered a foolproof plan to extort money from wealthy families.

They kidnap the child of rich parents, hold the kid for 24 hours, keeping the mother under Joe's control while Cheryl gets the ransom from the father, who is on a trip.

But things go very wrong when they try the scheme on Dr. and Mrs. Will Jennings (Charlize Theron, *SWEET NOVEMBER* and Stuart Townsend, *QUEEN OF THE DAMNED*), in part because their daughter Abby (Dakota Fanning, *I AM SAM*) is asthmatic, and in part because the Jennings find out more than Joe Hickley wants them to know.

The Action & Suspense begin NOV. 6!

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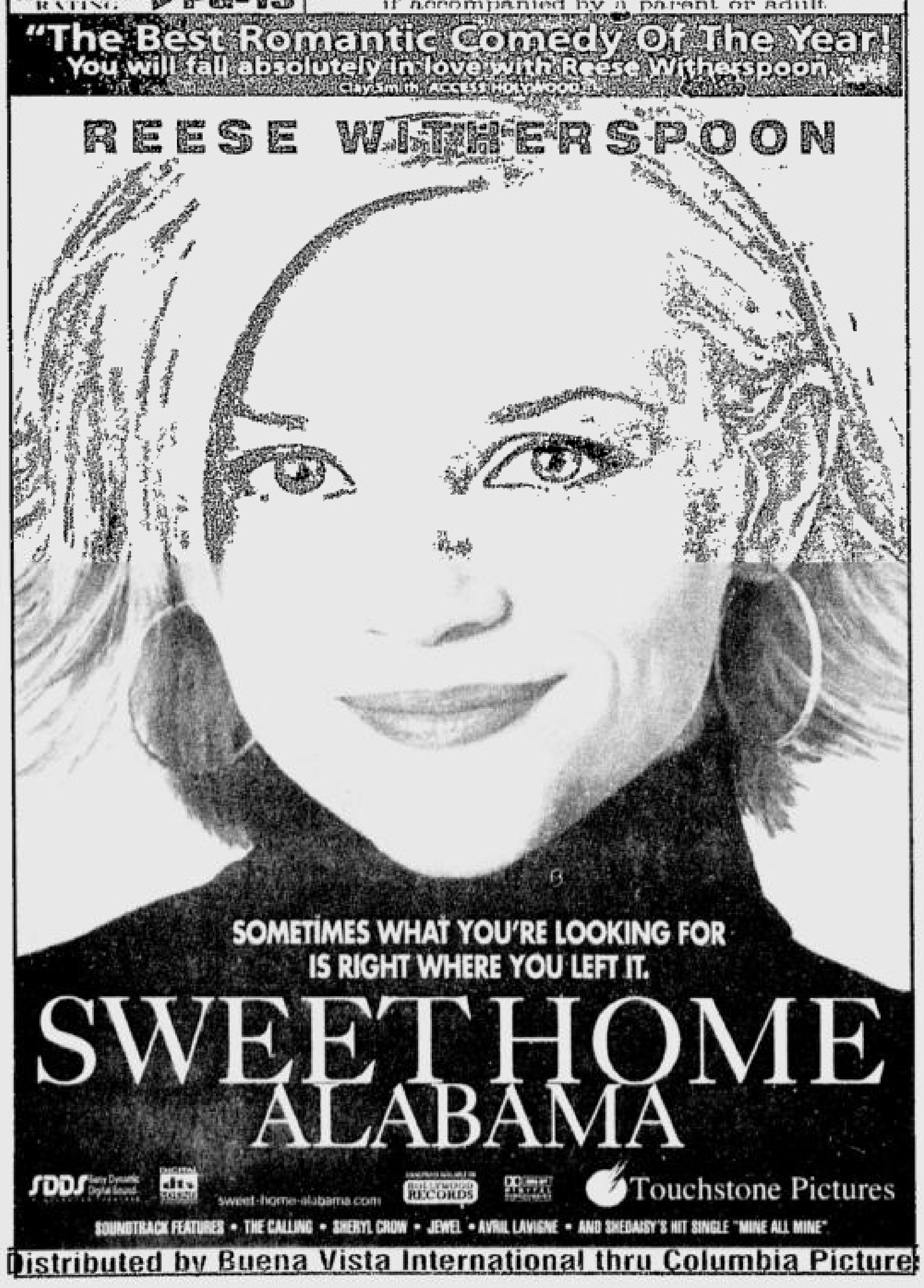
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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | STA. CLAUSE 2 | 11:40 FS/12:10 MF/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:40 END |
| 2 | SWEET HOME ALABAMA | 1:10 FS/1:40 MF/4:00/6:20/8:40/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:50 END |

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Starring: Benjamin Bratt, Talisa Soto, Mandy Patinkin, Rosita Moreno, Jaime Sanchez; Directed by: Leon Ichaso

"Vibrant and compelling."
- Kevin Thomas, LOS ANGELES TIMES

MTRCB RATING: Restricted 18 (R)

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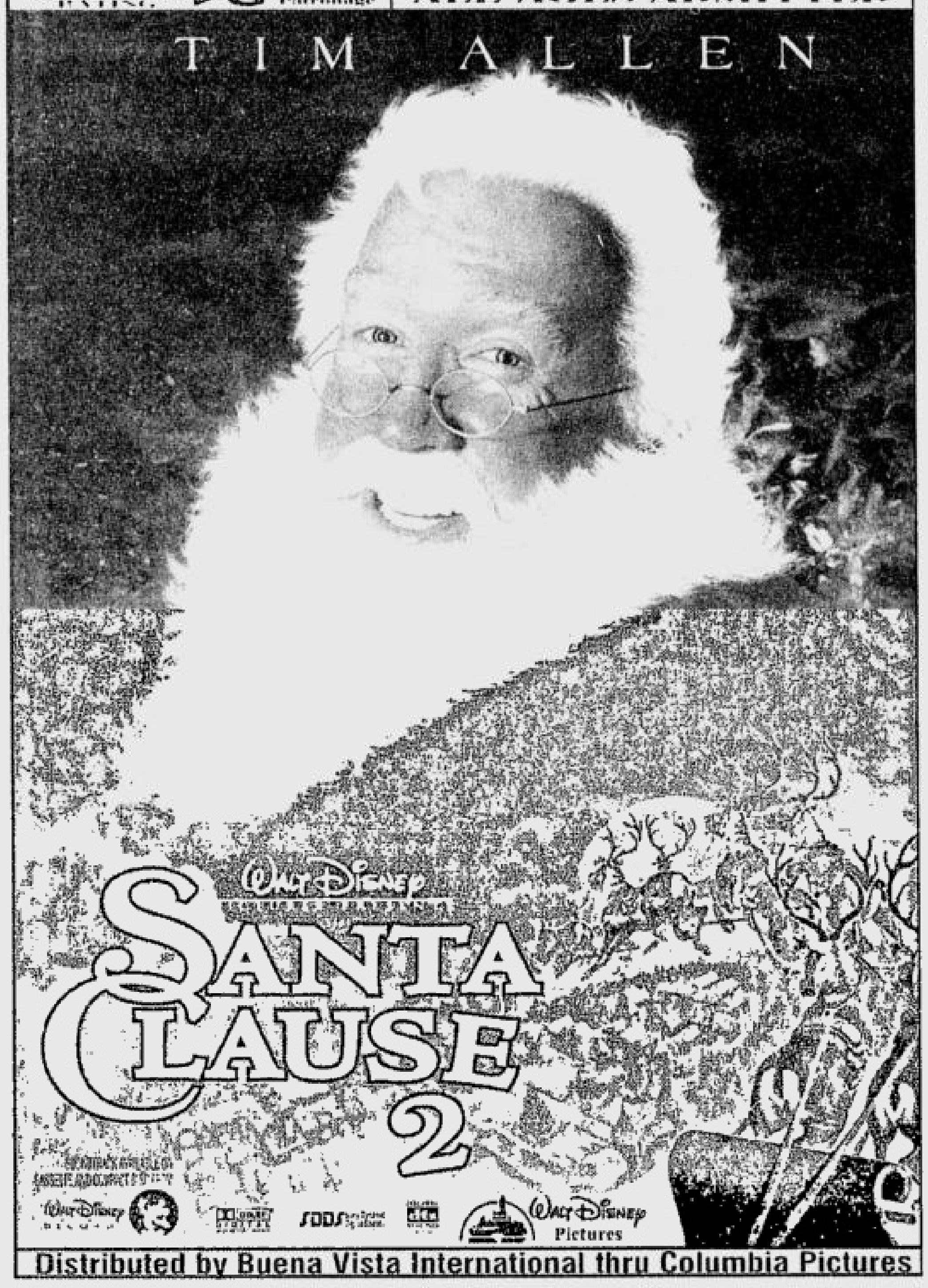
TIM ALLEN
Walt Disney
SANTA CLAUSE 2
Walt Disney Pictures

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Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

| | |
|---|---|
| Ali 1 | SINGSING NI LOLA |
| Ali 2 | JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG |
| Ali 3 | RED DRAGON |
| Ali 4 | SWEET HOME ALABAMA |
| Ali 5 | BALISTIC ECK VS' SEVER |
| Ali 6 | NINE MORNING |
| Ali 7 | HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION |

FARMERS PLAZA CINEMAS

| | |
|---|---|
| Farmers 1 | ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN |
| Farmers 2 | SINGSING NI LOLA |

ARANETA COLISEUM

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|---|---|
| NOV. 3, 10 | PBA GAMES |
| NOV. 15 | STUDIO 23 MYX PARTY |
| NOV 16 | HEALING THE FAMILY |

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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| SWEET HOME ALABAMA<br>P13<br>12:20,2:35,4:50, 7:10,9:30 | SANTA CLAUSE 2<br>GP<br>12:40,3:00,5:20, 7:40,10:00 | RED DRAGON<br>R18<br>12:30,2:55,5:20, 7:45,10:20 |
| GHOST SHIP<br>R18<br>12:20,2:10,4:05, 6:00,7:55,9:50 | PLUTO NASH<br>P13<br>12:45,2:55,5:05, 7:15,9:30 | SWEET HOME ALABAMA<br>P13<br>1:20,3:35,5:50, 8:10,10:30 |

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| CINEMA 1 | GHOST SHIP | 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50<br>R 18 |
| CINEMA 2 | SWEET HOME ALABAMA | 11:50, 2:05, 4:20, 6:35, 8:50<br>P 13 |

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# ENTERTAINMENT

*Editor* **Louie C. Camino**

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## Demi Moore on the comeback trail

**VIEWFINDER**

*Nestor U. Torre*

IN THE 1990's, **Demi Moore** was one of Hollywood's biggest female stars. Her early films—"Choices," "Parasite," "Young Doctors in Love," "Blame It on Rio," "No Small Affair"—merely hinted at her thespic talent and charisma. But, starting with "St. Elmo's Fire," she started to come on strong.

Then came "About Last Night," where she played the female lead opposite **Rob Lowe**, and a number of other upwardly-mobile stellar vehicles capped by the big hit, "Ghost."

In that popular movie, Demi played the grieving girlfriend of **Patrick Swayze,** who was killed in a botched-up hit and tried to warn her through a medium (**Whoopi Goldberg**) that she was also in danger.

Other big films followed, like "A Few Good Men," "Indecent Proposal" and "Disclosure." Then came "Striptease," for which Demi was paid the then unheard-of fee (for a female star) of P12M.

Unfortunately, that film fizzled, and it was downhill for Demi from then on, despite her very physical turn in "G.I. Jane."

Happily, after five years away from the movie camera, Demi Moore is making a comeback in the sequel "Charlie's Angels," which will hit the screens in June 2003. She is cast as a "fallen" Angel who is given a chance to redeem herself.

This is good now because Demi is too striking a film performer to be put to pasture just yet. When she was married to **Bruce Willis** (they divorced in 2000), they flew high as Hollywood's most popular star-couple, so her recent low point must have been hard for her to take. All the more reason, then, for her to take full advantage of the second chance at stardom that the new "Charlie's Angels" film is giving her.

### Feedback

OUR recent piece on **Fernando Poe, Jr.** and the presidency has elicited a number of reactions. Some of the points raised by readers:

If winnability is equated with popularity, of

DEMI/ A25

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B1
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Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** ◉ Assistant Editor **Corrie S. Narisma**

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# Gov't warns against delay in 2003 budget

By Clarissa S. Batino

**BUDGET Secretary Emilia Boncodin yesterday warned that the economy would suffer if Congress fails to pass the 2003 budget bill as it would leave no room for additional spending to spur growth.**

"If Congress would not pass the (General Appropriations Act) for 2003, then we would re-enact this year's budget, which means we would retain the same level of expenditures. This means there would be no new projects," the budget chief said.

Boncodin's statements followed reports that Congress did not have enough time to pass the 2003 budget bill.

This year's expenditures were set at P726.1 billion against revenues of P596.1 billion. The proposal for 2003 calls for P782.8 billion in expenditures and P640.7 billion in revenues, or a deficit of P142.1 billion.

Boncodin said that under a re-enacted budget, the government would have to retain the same expenditure items but would have to make estimates on revenues and, consequently, the budget deficit.

Keeping a lid on expenditures, as what would happen if the 2003 budget is not approved, would stunt the much-needed economic growth. As measured by gross domestic product, the Philippine economy must grow between 5 and 5.5 percent next year.

The budget chief, however, said she was confident that Congress would find time to approve the proposed 2003 budget this year or in January, at the latest.

The P34.4 billion increase in the budget this year would finance items necessary "to transform the Philippines into a stronger republic", according to Boncodin.

Among those proposed to have an increased allocation are sectors like education with an additional P1.1 billion at P104.4 billion; infrastructure with P900 million more at P61.4 billion; Armed Forces of the Philippines with an additional P4.2 billion at P50.5 billion, and trade and tourism with P300 million more at P3.1 billion.

The intention, according to government officials, was to hire more policemen and teachers, improve peace and order and boost tourism.

Boncodin denied allegations that additional expenditure items were included to accommodate a spending binge in preparation for the 2004 presidential elections.

Critics have alleged that the Arroyo administration was trying to jack up expenditures in preparation for the 2004 polls.

Spending usually rises in the run-up to an election year as the government tries to build up infrastructure and strives to push economic growth higher to support the bid, in this case of Ms Macapagal, for a reelection.

But Boncodin insisted that there was no such thing as election spending in the proposed 2003 budget.

# October inflation seen up, but not alarming

THE COUNTRY'S annual inflation rate was likely to have edged up slightly in October, but the uptick would not be enough to prompt any policy action by the central bank, economists said yesterday.

A Reuters poll of 10 economists forecast on average that October consumer prices were 3.1 percent higher than a year earlier, on the back of more expensive fuel, compared with a 2.9-percent rise during the 12 months to September. Out of the 10, six picked a 3.2-percent rise in prices for October.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura told reporters on Tuesday the inflation rate for the year to October could be between 2.7 percent and 3.1 percent. The data is to be released on Nov. 5.

"The increase in fuel might be reflected. That is why we are saying it might go up to 3.1 percent," Buenaventura said.

The central bank has kept its benchmark overnight borrowing rate at a 10-year-low of 7 percent since March this year in the absence of price pressures and because of the need to support the domestic economic recovery.

"That (the October projection) is still a very low rate of inflation, so I don't think that would be making the central bank particularly concerned at this point. I think interest rates will remain on hold for the remainder of the year," said Graham Parry, an economist at Lehman Brothers in Tokyo.

According to a Reuters poll of economists conducted earlier this month, inflation is expected to average 3.7 percent this year, lower than the government's estimate of 4.5 to 5.5 percent.

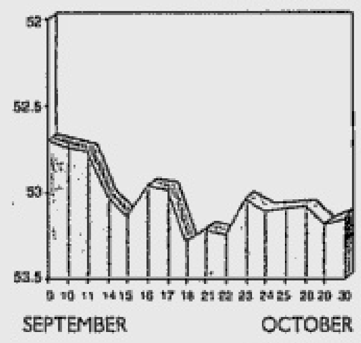
Analysts said the US Federal Reserve keeping its rates on hold for now was also supporting the neutral policy stance of the Bangko Sentral, which often follows its lead.

However, that may change as early as next week with US financial markets expecting the Fed to cut rates at its policy meeting after surprisingly weak consumer confidence data on Tuesday cast doubt on the pace of the US eco-

OCTOBER/B2

## INDICATORS

### CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 53.14= $1

As of 5 p.m., Oct.30, 2002

¥ 122.48= $1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 31, 2002

GOLD: $316.50-317.00

per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 31, 2002

### CURRENCIES

Oct. 30, 2002

| Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Foreign currency in US$ | Foreign currency in Peso |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 1.016673 | 1.000000 | 53.017000 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.008257 | 0.008122 | 0.430600 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.583164 | 1.557200 | 82.558100 |
| Hong Kong | Dollar | 0.130364 | 0.128226 | 6.798200 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.682423 | 0.671231 | 35.586700 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.650338 | 0.639672 | 33.913500 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.574392 | 0.564972 | 29.953100 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.565982 | 0.556700 | 29.514600 |
| Bahrain | Dinar* | 2.696890 | 2.652661 | 140.636100 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.271091 | 0.266645 | 14.136700 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.571486 | 0.562114 | 29.801600 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000111 | 0.000109 | 0.005800 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.023485 | 0.023100 | 1.224700 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.276812 | 0.272272 | 14.435000 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 0.983600 | 52.147500 |
| Argentina | Peso | 0.284782 | 0.280112 | 14.850700 |
| Brazil | Real | 0.265589 | 0.261233 | 13.849800 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134502 | 0.132296 | 7.013900 |
| India | Rupee | 0.021045 | 0.020700 | 1.097500 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.267581 | 0.263193 | 13.953700 |
| Mexico | New Peso | 0.099840 | 0.098203 | 5.206400 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.493794 | 0.485696 | 25.750100 |
| Norway | Kroner | 0.135248 | 0.133030 | 7.052900 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | 0.017305 | 0.017021 | 0.902400 |
| South Africa | Rand | 0.100981 | 0.099325 | 5.265900 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000835 | 0.000821 | 0.043500 |
| Sweden | Kroner | 0.110000 | 0.108196 | 5.736200 |
| Syria | Pound | 0.023001 | 0.022624 | 1.199500 |
| Taiwan | Nt Dollar | 0.029282 | 0.028802 | 1.527000 |
| Venezuela | Bolivar | 0.000742 | 0.000730 | 0.038700 |

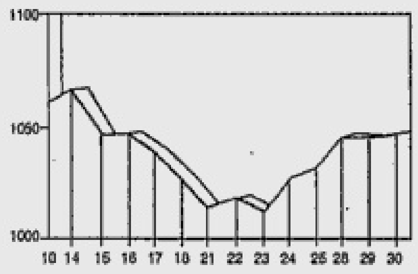
### STOCK MARKET

## Stock trading break

STOCK market traders began a long break yesterday and activity is expected to take its cue next week from corporate earnings results that have started to trickle in.

Analysts said there was not much anxiety among investors about the long weekend ahead due to the All Saints Day holidays that started yesterday. Trading will resume on Monday.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

The Philippine stock index added 2.83 points or 0.27 percent to end at 1,048.53 points, the day's high, on Wednesday.

Turnover climbed to P335.6 million from the previous day's P269.3 million. Losers outpaced gainers, 25 to 18, with 28 issues unchanged.

*Reuters*

## More perks for ICT eyed

THE GOVERNMENT plans to enhance the package of fiscal incentives for the lucrative information, communication and technology (ICT) sector in order to match those being offered in other investment hubs abroad.

Based on the medium-term development program drawn up by the National Economic and Development Authority, fresh tax policies would be studied to cover, among others, stock options and capital gains "to encourage entrepreneurs and venture capitalists to invest in e-service companies in the country."

The MTDP also said new tax policies should be proposed to cover ICT income "to ascertain that income earned by IT professionals and employees, net of taxes, is at par with other countries."

These incentives aim to increase the number of emloyment in ICT-related industries, specially in small and medium enterprises (SMEs) as well as services like backroom operations, shared services, call centers, ICT zones and cyberparks.

Also considered by the MTDP is the amendment of the corporation code of the Philippines to allow the setting up of entities similar to the "S" corporations in the United States that enable company earnings to flow through to its investors without the burden of corporate taxes.

As opposed to the "C" corpo-

MORE/B2

## Metrobank profit up 64%

METROPOLITAN Bank and Trust Co. yesterday said its net profit rose 64 percent to P791.28 million in the third quarter of this year against the comparative figure registered last year.

Based on its statement of income and expenses filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Metrobank's interest income reached P5.11 billion while expenses reached P2.67 billion.

The country's biggest bank, owned and controlled by taipan George Ty, also provided in the third quarter P392.6 million for probable losses.

Like many other banks, Metrobank posted large gains in other income, which amounted to P1.944 billion. This represented foreign exchange profit, commissions, and trading and investment securities gains.

The bank's other expenses, meanwhile, stood at P3.2 billion, largely from the P1.28 billion in compensation and fringe benefits and P1 billion in miscellaneous expenses.

The third-quarter income brought up the bank's profit in the first nine months of this year to P2.33 billion, more than 50 percent better than the P1.5 billion recorded by the bank during the same period last year.

The bank has targeted a profit of as much as P3.5 billion for the whole year.

Meanwhile, early this week, Metrobank also reported that its board has approved the raising of tier 2 capital, the amount and terms of which would be subject to the approval of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Metrobank officials could not be contacted for comment on why the bank plans to raise additional tier 2 capital.

Last year, the universal bank raised $100 million in tier 2 capital through a private placement with a Singapore-based fund.

This year the bank also sold P16 billion worth of bad loans to a group led by a foreign cooperative bank for P2.5 billion in cash and an interest in the amount that could still be recovered when the foreign group disposes of the loans.

*Elena R. Torrijos*

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1547 Series of 2002

What Drives You CALTEX

# 'Kaibigan': Befriending our employees

## LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

*Josephus B. Jimenez*

TODAY'S businessmen and corporate executives are being besieged by the combined pressures emanating from the external environment, as well as the problems, unresolved issues and irritants that continue to put a strain on the relationship between labor and management. Consequently, productivity and quality levels deteriorate and business viability is endangered. The challenge being posed to human resource managers and employee relations practitioners is how to win back the confidence, loyalty and friendship of our own employees.

Labor regional director Manny Roldan of Cagayan de Oro, who used to be in Davao, was the first to apply "Kaibigan," as a team-building workshop between and among managers and rank-and-file employees. In Pepsi, a group of passionate and dynamic HR professionals borrowed the name "Kaibigan" and formulated a total OD intervention mechanism, designed precisely to unite the forces of management and the strength of the personnel.

### Crafting a common vision

My partners and associates in Pepsi, Bobby Franco and Jun del Ponso, as well as our comrades among the area HR managers from Mindanao to Luzon, collaborated in conducting Kaibigan sessions all over the Philippines.. The sessions start with getting to know the people on a personal level and the sharing of dreams and wishes for one's self and for our company.

From the personal level, we discern the meaning of our company's vision, the core values that unite us as a family and the problems we face together as co-employees. There are long sharing sessions where we end up realizing that there are so many things that unite us. The irritants that cause frictions in our relationships are too few compared to the values and principles that bind us together.

### Sharing one's vulnerability

The risks of friendship necessarily include disclosures of one's weaknesses, one's deepest fears. There is a need for openness, as we often say: "*Kailangang mag-open upang maging close tayo.*" Friendship deepens when we know the areas in the life of another where we can help each other.

The sharing of one's life also presents an opportunity to enrich others by the wealth of experience, the depth of our insights and the grandeur of our deepest dreams. The drawing of each one's lifeline also gives each one an opportunity to renew one's life and to count our blessings, to learn from our mistakes as well as to strengthen our resolve to face life with more courage and determination.

### Sharing one's grandeur

There is a lecturette called "The Grandeur of Man" where participants accept the reality that, every person, regardless of his position in the company or status in life, has dignity, having been created in the image and likeness of God. In this learning experience, the employees also realize that there is much more to work than compensation, that there is much more to life than money.

The participants realize that work is a means to fulfill the meaning of one's life. As co-creator of God, the employee finds his work as a process of participation in the noble task of creating products and services. As co-redeemer of God, the employee finds fulfillment in saving our customers from a thirst for very fine drinks with world-class quality. A sense of pride is born in the hearts of each participant.

### Secrets of success

One of the highlights of Kaibigan is a session on one's definition of success and happiness in life. The participants decide whether success is a goal and destination or a process and journey. The desired conclusion is a realization that success is both a goal and a journey, thus there should be balancing between goals and human feelings.

Success also depends on one's choice of goals and mission in life. One's attitude and skills in human relations also help a lot. But there should be a plan of action that could span between one's present situation and his goals in life.

### Visions and plans

The climax of the Kaibigan session is the alignment process between the vision of the business and the personal plans of the employees, the union between corporate goals and individual objectives. This experience allows the participants to raise issues of difficulties in some divergences and affords them an opportunity to reexamine their priorities, in order to try hard to reach some convergences.

The participants therefore shall formulate a personal mission statement where he shall harmonize his many goals, in his personal life, his corporate life, in his family, career and social activities.

### Strategy of alliance

The ultimate result of the three-day and two-night live-in team-building workshop is a common resolve between managers and rank-and-file employees to collaborate and synergize, so as to be more effective in their respective goals. The days of adversarial relationship are over. In the advent of globalization, we cannot afford to lose in to competitions in a global village.

Corporate managers have to learn how to dialogue with employees, to listen to their grievances and solve problems before they escalate into major labor disputes that can disrupt operations and destroy both business viability and the job security of the workers.

### A matter of choice

Both the employers and the employees exercise the freedom to choose between collaborations and antagonism, whether to opt for synergy instead of conflict, to enter into alliance instead of disruptive collisions. The Kaibigan session gives the participants a chance to make a crucial decision that shall affect their lives and careers.

The enemy of the workers is not the management. Neither are the workers the enemy of the employer. They are not supposed to weaken each other but to synergize, to supplement and collaborate as allies as each business struggles to survive under very harsh business conditions and given the fierce competition in a global arena of major and stronger economic players.

# PSE rules out renegotiation of deal on property donation

**By Doris C. Dumlao**

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange management has dismissed calls for the renegotiation of its controversial agreement with property developer Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. on the donation of a property for the unified exchange's future headquarters.

In a press briefing, PSE president Ernest Leung said it was important to get the job done on the FBDC deal and that it did not make sense to seek further changes as the PSE board merely reaffirmed what the bourse shareholders had ratified last March.

The agreement provides that the conditional deed of donation for the PSE's future headquarters will cover Lot 9-5 in Fort Bonifacio, whose title will be transferred in a new holding company that will own the property. The shares of the new holding company will be held in escrow and will be transferred to the PSE in seven years.

The new deal freed FBDC from its previous commitment to put up the new PSE headquarters which will house a unified trading floor by 2004.

"We tried our best to get a level of certainty despite a climate of uncertainty," Leung said.

The PSE board already approved the new term sheet in its last meeting, but a group of minority directors led by former PSE chair Robert Coyiuto Jr. said this had been overtaken by events.

"The situation was different when the stockholders approved the terms in March. Now, First Pacific (Co. Ltd. of Hong Kong) is selling Fort Bonifacio. We should take a second look because it's no longer seven years down the road that we are looking at Bonifacio," Coyiuto said.

If the PSE would not renegotiate the deal, Coyiuto warned it might end up with nothing at all.

"We should get something more superior, even though only a smaller donation. We should get the title for the property, even without a building," Coyiuto said.

He said PSE would be better off spending for the donation tax if the title for the donated property were to be transferred to its name now rather than shell out money for a new accounting system.

"The best thing is to renegotiate now and at least get something out of it," he said.

Under the deal, FBDC will spend P250 million to build the new PSE building and start construction on the fourth year after the signing of the deal.

The original plan was for the PSE to unify into a single structure by 2004 but the slump in the property sector forced the cash-strapped donor, FBDC, to seek an extension.

As such, the new term sheet now allows FBDC to donate the property earmarked for the unified trading floor within seven years. The future trading floor will have a total floor area of 12,000 square meters.

If FBDC fails to deliver the PSE premises by the end of the ninth year, it will be required to double the floor area of the property donation.

At any time prior to the commencement of the development of the property, the PSE has the option to build the unified trading floor and relieve the FBDC of such a commitment. In such an event, the floor area will also be increased and all the shares of the holding company will be immediately transferred to the PSE.

FBDC is a joint venture between Bonifacio Land Co., a consortium controlled by Metro Pacific, and the state-run Bases Conversion Development Authority.

# Globe capex for '03 seen at 35% of revenue

**By Abigail L. Ho**

AYALA-OWNED Globe Telecom Inc. said its capital expenditure for next year would represent only 30 to 35 percent of its revenues.

Globe's president and chief executive Gerardo Ablaza Jr. said the company's capex-to-revenue ratio had seen a steady decline over the years with the improvement in Globe's cash flow and the need for less infrastructure spending.

During the company's earlier years, he said its capex amounted to about 90 to 140 percent of its annual revenues. Lately, however, this percentage had gone down to only around 50 to 55 percent.

"By next year and the years after that, the ratio will further drop to only 30 to 35 percent. These are the normal levels enjoyed by more mature telecommunication companies. This makes possible significant cash flows and opens the opportunity to pay back our shareholders," Ablaza said.

Globe has programmed a two-year capex of $500 million for 2003 and 2004. This is about the same level that the company has spent just in the first nine months of this year.

In the first nine months of 2002, Globe had already spent P16 billion (about $300 million) out of its committed capex of $650 million.

Globe chief finance officer Delfin Gonzalez Jr. said Globe would likely be spending only $500 million of the programmed capex of $650 million this year.

# Bangko Sentral urges banks to sell dollar-linked peso bonds

**By Clarissa S. Batino**

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has urged banks to unload the dollar-linked peso bonds that they have been holding since last year and sell them to investors who might be needing the instruments to hedge against a peso fall.

A wider distribution of the debt papers is expected to help stabilize the peso, which has been acting up for quite a while now due to the rising tension in the Middle East. The peso closed at 53.14 to a dollar last Wednesday.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said that banks had accumulated 53 percent of the P3.5 billion in two-and-three-year dollar-linked bonds issued by the government a year ago.

Last September, the government had planned to issue P7-billion worth of these types of bonds but changed its mind when banks sought higher returns for the debt papers.

"We wrote banks and urged them to sell their dollar-linked bonds to investors who have better use for them. They should not hold on to those instruments because they were intended for the investors who need to hedge," said the central bank governor.

First offered to local investors in November last year, the so-called dollar-linked instruments are low-earning, peso-denominated bonds that pay investors an interest rate comparable to prevailing rates of dollar-denominated Philippine bonds of similar maturity.

Because of the low interest rates paid on the dollar debt papers, these types of borrowings provide the government a cheaper source of funds.

To enable investors to hedge, the principal investment would be paid based on the peso-dollar exchange rate at the time of maturity. This means that if the peso's value drops when the bonds fall due, the investor gets more but if the local currency strengthens by then, the investor will get less.

"This is the simplest, cheapest way to hedge for anybody who needs protection from volatile exchange rates," said the central bank chief.

The dollar-linked instrument was one of the several peso-propping measures that Camacho had proposed to the central bank in August 2001 when the peso was volatile.

The BSP's call for banks to unload their dollar holdings came after the underwriters asked the central bank for additional sweeteners on the planned issuance of fresh dollar-linked bonds last September.

The three underwriters of the bonds were Deutsche Bank, RCBC Capital and Multinational Investment Bancorporation, which were mandated by the government to raise up to P20 billion in dollar-linked instruments.

The fixed-income market had been demanding higher returns for their bond purchases, which government officials found unreasonable.

The underwriters, according to a source, informed the government that investors were asking for a spread that was at least one percentage point higher than the prevailing rates on two-and-three-year dollar-denominated Philippine bonds.

## PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Wednesday, October 30, 2002)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES | | | | | |
| BANKS | | | | | |
| Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc. | 4.8 | 4.8 | 4.8 | 4.8 | 3,000 |
| Banco de Oro Univ. Bank | 18 | 18.75 | 18 | 18.75 | 118,800 |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 41.5 | 41.5 | 41 | 41 | 182,400 |
| Citystate Savings Bank | 14.25 | 14.25 | 14.25 | 14.25 | 2,000 |
| Equitable PCI Bank Inc. | 27 | 27 | 26.5 | 27 | 60,800 |
| First E-Bank Corp. | 0.81 | 0.81 | 0.81 | 0.81 | 10,000 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 30.5 | 31.5 | 30.5 | 31.5 | 407,300 |
| Philippine National Bank | 27 | 28 | 27 | 28 | 5,000 |
| Security Bank Corp. | 11.5 | 11.5 | 11.25 | 11.5 | 14,400 |
| Union Bank of the Phil. | 18.25 | 18.25 | 18.25 | 18.25 | 16,600 |
| FINANCIAL SERVICE | | | | | |
| Bankard Inc. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 50,000 |
| Filipino Fund Inc. | 0.38 | 0.4 | 0.38 | 0.4 | 70,000 |
| Manulife Financial Corp. | 1130 | 1130 | 1130 | 1130 | 150 |
| Sun Life Financial Serv. | 910 | 910 | 910 | 910 | 450 |
| COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL | | | | | |
| COMMUNICATION | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 17 | 17.25 | 17 | 17.25 | 900 |
| Digital Telecom Phils. Inc. | 0.44 | 0.44 | 0.42 | 0.42 | 370,000 |
| Globe Telecom Inc. | 400 | 410 | 397.5 | 410 | 89,560 |
| ISM Communications Corp. | 0.016 | 0.016 | 0.016 | 0.016 | 800,000 |
| Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp. | 3.55 | 3.8 | 3.55 | 3.8 | 87,000 |
| Piltel | 0.215 | 0.215 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 1,280,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 228 | 230 | 226 | 230 | 91,060 |
| Philweb.Com Inc. | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 8,000,000 |
| POWER & ENERGY | | | | | |
| Manila Electric Co. A | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15 | 15 | 29,500 |
| Manila Electric Co. B | 21 | 21 | 19.75 | 20.25 | 611,400 |
| Petron Corp. | 1.44 | 1.56 | 1.44 | 1.56 | 1,919,000 |
| TRANSPORTATION SERVICES | | | | | |
| Int'l Container Term'l Sv | 2.16 | 2.16 | 2.16 | 2.16 | 272,000 |
| William, Gothong & Aboitiz | 3.25 | 3.3 | 3.2 | 3.3 | 170,000 |
| FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO | | | | | |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 13.25 | 13.75 | 13.25 | 13.5 | 248,200 |
| Liberty Flour Mills Inc. | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 65,000 |
| La Tondeña Distillers Inc. | 32.5 | 32.5 | 32 | 32 | 15,300 |
| RFM Corp. | 0.75 | 0.75 | 0.74 | 0.75 | 400,000 |
| San Miguel Corp. A | 57 | 57.5 | 57 | 57.5 | 157,600 |
| San Miguel Corp. B | 61 | 61.5 | 61 | 61.5 | 1,436,900 |
| HOLDING FIRMS | | | | | |
| Abacus Con Res & Hdg A | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 30,000 |
| Ayala Corp. | 4.8 | 4.8 | 4.7 | 4.75 | 4,074,000 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 2.26 | 2.26 | 2.26 | 2.26 | 81,000 |
| Alcorn Gold Res. Corp. | 0.0055 | 0.0055 | 0.0055 | 0.0055 | 3,000,000 |
| ATN Holdings Inc. | 2.48 | 2.48 | 2.48 | 2.48 | 5,000 |
| Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 2,000 |
| Benpres Holdings Corp. | 0.19 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 2,300,000 |
| Southeast Asian Cement | 0.027 | 0.027 | 0.026 | 0.026 | 16,600,000 |
| Filinvest Dev. Corp. | 1.2 | 1.22 | 1.18 | 1.22 | 261,000 |
| First Phil Hldgs. Corp. | 13.25 | 13.5 | 13.25 | 13.5 | 637,500 |
| Ionics Inc. | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.18 | 2.18 | 74,000 |
| J.G. Summit Holdings Inc. | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 100,000 |
| Megaworld Corp. | 0.64 | 0.64 | 0.63 | 0.64 | 630,000 |
| Mabuhay Holdings Corp. | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 20,000,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corp. | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 730,000 |
| Solid Group Inc. | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 500,000 |
| Unioil Res. & Holdings Co. | 0.032 | 0.032 | 0.032 | 0.032 | 100,000 |
| Uniwide Holdings Inc. | 0.048 | 0.048 | 0.048 | 0.048 | 100,000 |
| MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING | | | | | |
| Interphil Labs Inc. A | 1.54 | 1.56 | 1.54 | 1.54 | 161,000 |
| Mabuhay Vinyl Corp. | 0.51 | 0.56 | 0.51 | 0.56 | 180,000 |
| SPI Technologies Inc. | 10 | 10.25 | 10 | 10.25 | 58,000 |
| HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE | | | | | |
| Belle Corp. | 0.34 | 0.39 | 0.34 | 0.39 | 2,200,000 |
| Fairmont Holdings Inc. | 0.37 | 0.38 | 0.37 | 0.38 | 200,000 |
| BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr) | 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 249,900 |
| Jollibee Warrants | 13.25 | 13.25 | 13.25 | 13.25 | 12,000 |
| PROPERTY | | | | | |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 5 | 5 | 4.95 | 5 | 13,575,000 |
| Empire East Land Inc. | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 2,100,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc. | 0.9 | 0.91 | 0.9 | 0.91 | 6,830,000 |
| Highlands Prime Inc. | 1.96 | 2.04 | 1.94 | 2.02 | 1,521,000 |
| Fil-Estate Land Inc. | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 20,000 |
| Phil Realty and Holdings | 0.028 | 0.028 | 0.02 | 0.021 | 4,400,000 |
| SM Development Corp. | 1.04 | 1.04 | 1.04 | 1.04 | 526,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 5.3 | 5.4 | 5.3 | 5.4 | 2,895,000 |
| MINING | | | | | |
| Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't. | 1.5 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 100,000 |
| Polar Mines & Dev't Corp. | 0.015 | 0.015 | 0.015 | 0.015 | 1,000,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. B | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 300,000 |
| OIL | | | | | |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. A | 0.0022 | 0.0022 | 0.0022 | 0.0022 | 10,000,000 |
| Pacifica | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 1,000,000 |

| | SHARES | VALUE(P) |
|---|---|---|
| Bank & Fin Svc | 940,900 | 25,077,225.00 |
| Comm'l & Ind'l | 68,528,840 | 220,329,710.00 |
| PRO | 31,867,000 | 93,528,560.00 |
| Mining | 1,400,000 | 254,000.00 |
| OIL | 11,000,000 | 32,000.00 |
| GRAND TOTALS: | 113,736,740 | 339,221,495.00 |

| | AVERAGES | |
|---|---|---|
| Bank & Fin Svc | 409.50 | DOWN 0.69 |
| Comm'l & Ind'l | 1,451.00 | UP 4.04 |
| PRO | 466.61 | UP 3.35 |
| Mining | 1,121.54 | UP 2.34 |
| OIL | 1.31 | DOWN 0.03 |
| All Shares Index | 612.94 | DOWN 14.39 |
| Composite | 1,048.53 | UP 2.83 |

NO. OF ADVANCES: 18; NO. OF DECLINES: 25; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 28; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 71; NO. OF TRADES: 1,349

# More perks for ICT eyed

From page B1

ration or the standard business corporation in the US, an "S" corporation is given a special tax status, which allows it to be treated as a pass-through entity. This means that the income or loss generated by the business is reflected on the personal income tax return of the owners, eliminating double taxation on dividends that are paid out of corporate profits to the shareholders.

On the other hand, a "C" corporation is a separately taxable entity, with the profits and losses directly shouldered by the corporation.

The MTDP stressed that the ICT sector should be promoted as a major productivity and efficiency tool to make local businesses more competitive. It noted that the private sector shall be relied upon to play the lead role in pushing ICT development.

"If and when government intervention will be needed, its aim should only be to support healthy competition among the various players and to protect the consumers," the MTDP said.

Aside from the fresh package of fiscal incentives, the government has mapped out the following measures to boost the ICT sector:

- Promote e-business and e-commerce among SMEs and rationalize/enhance existing financing schemes offered by the Development Bank of the Philippines, Land Bank of the Philippines, Small Business Guaranty and Finance Corp.;
- Allow a moratorium, at least for the next three to four years, on the imposition of taxes and tariffs on commercial transactions by SMEs on the Internet, but goods delivered as a result of such transactions should still be subject to applicable taxes and tariffs;
- Plan and set a policy to evolve a private sector-led venture capital market for technology firms, as well as increase the flow of funds to the sector, and
- Create a one-stop shop and online filing of applications for key government-to-business (G2B) transactions—such as those with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Department of Trade and Industry, Board of Investments, Bureau of Internal Revenue and Philippine Economic Zone Authority—to make it much easier and less costly to set up businesses.

# October inflation . . .

From page B1

nomic recovery.

Other risks to the Philippines' neutral policy stance were a possible hike in food prices as the impact of the El Niño weather pattern, known to cause drought in the region, filters through.

"(Food prices) are pretty well behaved so far, but I guess before the year is over we may see something on that front," said David Cohen, director of macroeconomic analysis at MMS International.

While economists remain vigilant over the weakness of the peso and its potential impact on prices, they were wary about predicting how the local currency would fare in coming months, as much depended on external factors.

Bank of Philippine Islands economist Cecilia Tanchoco saw inflation creeping up as domestic demand strengthens ahead of the Christmas season, but even then, the increase would be small.

"By December, I am looking at a 4 percent inflation which will bring the full year average to 3.5 percent," she said.

"Demand is relatively still weak coming from difficult economic conditions. The manufacturers don't really have pricing power right now because of weak demand. At the same time, they have excess capacity."

On the peso's weakness, Tanchoco noted the currency's volatility was preventing the central bank from cutting interest rates, because such a move could see the currency decline further.

The peso hit a 14-month-low of P53.47 on Oct. 21. *Reuters*

**A Laudable Trait**

We commend the Tibayan Family for being forthright in the conduct of their businesses for over 52 years, dating back to its patriarch, Andres M. Tibayan, to whom the family pays tribute for instilling the values of honesty and integrity. A laudable trait which can be attributed to the conglomerate's strength and stability.

# Top 10 reasons why you should visit the new Greenbelt

**COCKTALES**

*Victor C. Agustin*

10. THE ZOBEL brothers are finally showing more of their McMicking heritage rather than their Ayala/Roxas streak.

9. The Ayala Center parking fees just gouged you, and you are trapped in the traffic; you might as well enjoy the expanded park and its added fountains.

8. The Greenhills cell phone doctors have invaded the mall.

7. The best restaurants in Malate, Ortigas, and Quezon City all have branches there.

6. It's the best place to watch the *alta sociedad* being disgorged from their spit-and-polish SUVs.

5. It's the best place to watch sweet young things (or boys, depending on your preference).

4. You won't be crushed by Megamall-size crowds.

3. You won't get to feel like you're in a box.

2. You would feel rich, even though you're poor.

1. You won't feel like you are in the Philippines.

### Boulevard of borrowed dreams

SEE what competition can do.

Following the success of the gasoline station-coffee shop complex at The Fort, Alfred Ty, son of taipan George Ty, is building a similar complex beside the Toyota Manila Bay dealership along the spanking new DM Macapagal Boulevard.

The young Ty, who is in charge of the real estate side of the taipan's empire, said the gas station is being rushed for opening before Christmas. Like The Fort's, the reclamation area would have a vast expanse of open land as chief attraction in the land-choked, gridlocked metropolis.

While The Fort counts on the Makati high-rises and the Manila Golf greenery as background, the yet unnamed gas station-fast food-coffee shop complex in the reclamation area would offer the Manila Bay and its world-famous sunset as backdrop.

### Accra for sale

THE BUILDING, not the law firm.

The seven-story office of the Accra law firm in Legaspi Village has quietly been placed on the market.

Accra, which is celebrating its 30th year, feels it has outgrown the building and that it needs more space, preferably in one of the newest high-rises along Ayala Avenue.

Bounded by Gamboa, Salcedo and Adelantado streets, the building offers an unobstructed view of the Legaspi park-turned-car park.

### Expelled by Escaler

IN a test case for the New Civil Code, painter Mariko Jacinto is suing investment banker Noel Escaler for partition of properties the two acquired during their more than seven years of living together.

A bitter Jacinto filed the civil suit after being locked out of the Pacific Plaza Towers penthouse unit she and Escaler had been living in and not even allowed to take out her clothes, books and paintings.

Escaler is the private banker to the local Jesuits and a partner in a Hong Kong-based investment bank with Marcos banker Rolando Gapud.

More telling details on Monday.

### Heard through the grapevine

THE VEVEY, Switzerland headquarters of food giant Nestlé has decided to accept the early retirement of Nestlé Philippine chair and president Juan Santos following *le affaire* Patricia Santo Tomas.

Santos is now due to bid good-bye in April 2003, instead of finishing the last three years of his extended service.

Santos was given an extended tour of duty last year when he was originally due to have retired as the first Filipino CEO of the local Nestlé unit.

*(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

# Gov't truck policy flawed, car firms say

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A GROUP of auto assemblers has warned that the government's decision to liberalize the importation of used light trucks and buses is flawed, saying it may be exploited by importers of second-hand vehicles using the Subic Bay Freeport.

Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. president Vicente Mills Jr. said the Department of Trade and Industry's plan to allow the importation of used trucks weighing more than 4.5 tons and buses weighing more than 6 tons would make the industry more vulnerable to a flood of second-hand units.

Mills is pushing for a status quo by limiting used truck and bus imports to 6 tons and 12 tons, respectively.

"Considering that there is only one tariff line for trucks (under HS Code No. 87-04), such a system is susceptible to circumvention, as experienced in the case of 10-seater passenger vans," Mills warned.

When the government agreed to exempt vehicles that could hold at least nine passengers, some assemblers added jump seats in their sport utility vehicles to evade taxes.

Mills said the single tariff classification was exacerbated by the varying definitions of trucks depending on the objectives of the implementing agencies concerned.

Although the import liberalization of used light trucks and buses will directly affect the Mitsubishi Canter, Kia Cab Chassis and Isuzu Elf models, which are assembled locally, critics point out that Subic traders can use this as a loophole to bring in large pickups and SUVs that the industry has hoped the government will plug with its policy reforms.

In a letter to Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II, Mills said the import liberalization of used light trucks and buses would be a reversal of the trade department's previous pronouncement that the government would clamp down on the importation of used motor vehicles by imposing a wide ranging ban with the exemption of special purpose vehicles such as fire trucks and cement mixers.

The shift from a total to a selective ban on used imports was apparently a result of intense lobbying by Subic traders who claimed that their import and conversion trade was allowed under the law.

Campi has insisted that the Subic trade is illegal because used vehicles are only allowed to come in through the "*balikbayan*" program wherein visiting citizens can bring in one used vehicle.

Mills said allowing used light truck imports to continue would imperil the commercial vehicle segment of the industry, which accounts for 70 percent of total industry sales.

"Further liberalization of used trucks and bus imports will only serve to delay the recovery and expansion of the local automotive industry," Mills said.

# $477-M debt restructuring seen marking Lopez firms' turnaround

By Abigail L. Ho

THE APPROVAL of Bayan Telecommunications Inc.'s proposed restructuring of nearly $477 million worth of debts is seen as a "major step" to turning around the ailing Lopez empire.

A highly placed source within the company revealed that debts in Bayantel and power distribution firm Manila Electric Co. were weighing down the Lopez firm's overall business.

"Bayantel's debt restructuring approval will be a major step for us as past negotiations have been failures. It will be a good first step in the right direction," a person familiar with the matter said.

Credit Suisse First Boston, financial adviser of Lopez flagship firm Benpres Holdings Corp., identified the Lopez's listed shareholdings—ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. and First Philippines Holdings Corp.—as its core businesses.

Businesses not identified as core are being lined up for partial or total sale, according to CSFB's balance sheet management plan.

Bayantel chief finance officer Gary Olivar said in an interview that there were plans to sell part of the company, but nothing had been finalized yet as the market was not that conducive.

"We're not broadcast or power, so I guess we're not core. But there are no plans to sell down now. The market is not conducive for the sale of a telecommunications company. But plans are always on the table (for Bayantel and for the other Lopez companies)," he told the INQUIRER.

But even with power being one of the Lopez's core businesses now, there are still plans to sell down its stake in its joint-venture projects with the BG Group of the United Kingdom.

PRULINK PRU LIFE U.K.

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|---|---|---|
| Prulink Bond Fund | 1.02861 | 1.02122 |
| Prulink Managed Fund | 1.00663 | 0.99568 |

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# People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor
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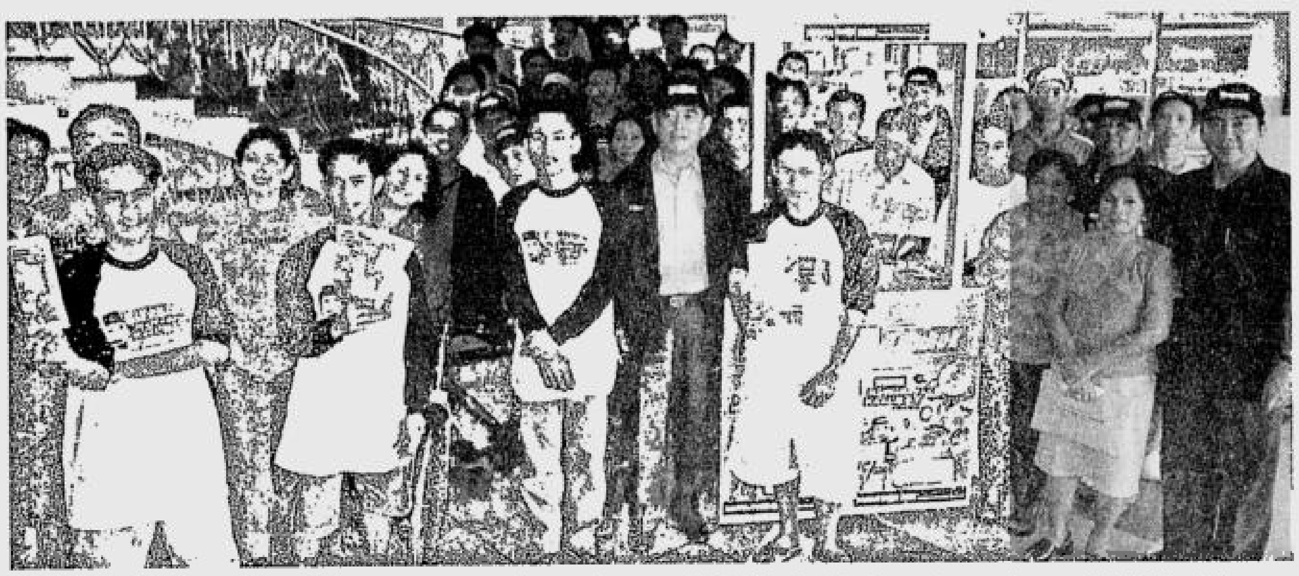
# Newsboy Koolboy sale promo hits it big in Metro Manila

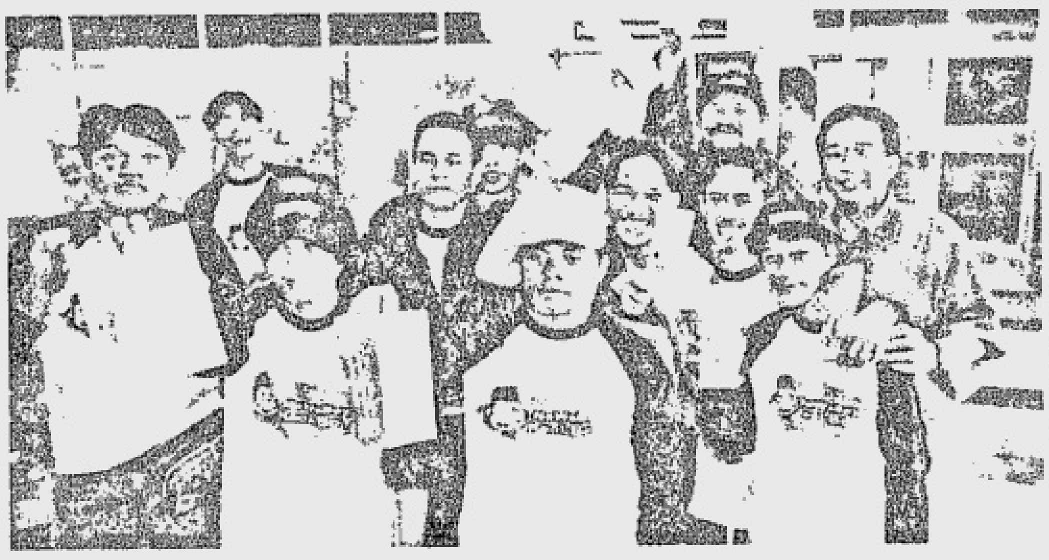
HUNDREDS of Metro Manila newsboys trooped to the Inquirer offices recently to signal the start of the redemption of prizes in the ongoing Newsboy Koolboy sales promo. Inquirer SVP for sales and marketing Rene R. Reinoso (center, in dark shirt), together with key officers of the circulation division, welcomed the newsboys and newsdealers upon their arrival.

INQUIRER news dealer Clarita Lerios (4th from right) displays the cell phone won by one of her carriers. With her are (from left) PDI field coordinator Bong Viray, Reinoso, Lerios, Inquirer AVP for circulation Glo Lardizabal, Inquirer circulation manager for sales and promotions Bien Baltazar, and Rivera.



INQUIRER publisher Isagani Yambot (center, wearing cap) poses with the first batch of newsboys who went to the Inquirer offices in Makati to redeem various prizes they earned in the ongoing Newsboy Koolboy sales promo.

REINOSO congratulates Inquirer news dealer Elieleth Carola and her newsboys for garnering enough points to win a mountain bike during the first day of redemption of prizes.



NEWSBOYS display their coupon booklets representing the points they earned in exchange for various prizes. With them is Inquirer Publications Inc (IPI) circulation manager Raymond Rivera (right) together with PDI newsdealer Ramon Tapales (wearing cap).

NEWSBOYS hold up their Newsboy Koolboy T-shirts which they earned during the ongoing Newsboy Koolboy promo. Other prizes available for redemption include T-shirts, bandannas, arm protectors, jackets, raincoats, cellphones, caps, beltbags and mountain bikes.

# IS Manila HS Freshman Council organizes BOB@Dish

THE INTERNATIONAL School Manila's High School Freshman Council is sponsoring the Battle of the Bands at Dish in Power Plant: Conceptualized as the council's major fundraiser for its various projects and activities of the year as well as for beneficiaries that include the Bantay Bata Foundation and the Bigay Pagmamahal Foundation, the BOB@Dish gives the school's bands and budding singers a venue to perform and compete before an audience of their peers in a non-school setting.

International School Manila's extensive co-curricular program has provided now famous musicians and actors such as Jefferson Airplane, Sharon Cuneta. Pops Fernandez, Chris Villongco, KC Concepcion, and Audie Gemora their initial training and development in the performing arts. More than 70 percent of IS Manila's student population are actively involved in the school's performing arts: music, dance and drama program.

The Freshman Council is one of the many clubs and organizations of IS Manila that give students the opportunity to exercise various aspects of leadership, negotiation and organization. EJ Litton, owner of Dish, after the initial meeting with JC Echevveri, president, and Marty Lopez, treasurer of the Freshman Council, commented, "These kids are so organized and have covered every aspect of the performances. I would love to hire them when they finish their education."

The BOB@Dish will host three performances. The first two will be eliminations to determine the top three bands and top three singers, who will then compete in the third performance. The performances at Dish at the Power Plant are on Nov. 9, 12 and 22 from 3 to 6 p.m. Tickets will be available at the entrance of Dish. Dish will respect and enforce IS Manila's school policy of no tobacco, alcohol or drugs.

## *Special* PROJECT

### SMART

### A SUREFIRE WINNER AT SHERWOOD

If Robin Hood was celebrated for his skill in shooting arrows and hitting the mark in the vast expanse of Sherwood Forest, SMART too had every reason to take a bow recently following its hugely successful 2002 Chairman's Cup held at the top-rated Sherwood Hills Club in Cavite. With 18 challenging holes scattered across the Club's ravishing landscape, this 1-day tournament promised to be yet another topnotch affair in true SMART fashion: par excellence.

With the registration queue stretching as far as the Club's main driveway, members exchanged morning pleasantries with one another before filing into the veranda for a hearty eat-all-you-can breakfast. A large fleet of golf carts assembled neatly along hole number one as members and guests psyched themselves for the green. Causing quite a stir was the SMART Gold booth, which had on display the latest offerings from celfone giants like Nokia, Sony Ericsson and Siemens. And as if these sleek models weren't enough to make you succumb, SMART had also cooked up a variety of flexible post-paid plans as tasty as the meal the players had just savored.

Tee-off time and who better to start off the first ever 2002 Chairman's Cup than Fil-Estate Chairman of the Board himself, Mr. Bob Sobrepena. And as all 150 golfers battled it out on the demanding course, Mr. Martin Mediana and his guest Mr. Gino Bunyi eventually took both the glory and the cup.

Pong Perez de Tagle tees off at hole number one

Your ever friendly SMART Booth Team

Game patrons about to take on the links

**BUSINESS***Friday*

*Business Features Editor* **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

# RP wins gold in London ad awards

**By Roger Pe**
*Contributor*

VISA television commercial "Dining Out," a spoof of the restaurant scene from the Oscar-winning movie "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" romped off with a gold for the Philippines in the 2002 London International Advertising Awards.

The win by BBDO-Guerrero/Ortega, the ad agency which created the ad, was for craft sound design. It was the agency's biggest victory since winning a silver Clio, 4 Asian Advertising Awards Spikes and an Asia-Pacific Adfest bronze early this year.

The campaign also won Ad of the Month and TV Ad of the Year First Runner-Up citations from the Creative Guild of the Philippines, including a sweep of all technical awards from the same award-giving body.

The Philippine gold winner will be honored at the Royal Lancaster Hotel, Lancaster Terrace, London, with a champagne reception, dinner and awards presentation on Nov. 11.

Advertising icon Bob Garfield of Advertising Age will host the show that is expected to be attended by hundreds of creative directors, copywriters and art directors from around the globe.

What's golden about Visa's "Dining Out" television commercial?

When the BBDO network opened the creative brief to all its Asia-Pacific agencies against Saatchi and Saatchi, BBDO-Guerrero was a major player, winning the regional business for BBDO Singapore.

Once the account was in place, David Guerrero, executive creative director and chair of BBDO-Guerrero/Ortega, lost no time in assembling the best production group from Hong Kong and Sydney. A veritable who's-who joined the impressive lineup: Bruce Hunt, director of the movie The Matrix starring Keannu Reeves, was tapped for the big-budget commercial; Bruce Davidson, whose previous credits included the IBM Subtitles campaign and a stint in BBDO New York, was assigned as producer. Veronica Phua was given the task of senior art director, collaborating closely with the best production designers in the region. Gary Phillips was director of cinematography. Steve Oakley was 3D animator, Stuart White, the designer. Ridley Tsui handled the fight rehearsals and stunts. Composer and sound designers were Mark Rivett and Simon Kane.

And the icing on the cake was the sultry Chinese superstar Zhang Zi Yi.

In the commercial, Zhang finds her soup "too salty," triggering off a fracas with the French chef and his kitchen kibitzers. A spectacular fighting scene ensues. We see a swashbuckling Zhang do somersaults and magnificent stunts. She parries off flying plates and knives. When dusts have settled and the resto had been reduced to a rubble, a waiter hands her the bill saying "no charge for the soup—but this (the large bill) is for the extras." She presents a Visa.

The client commissioned a "making of film and, as luck would have it, BBDO got an Emmy award-winning documentary filmmaker to shoot it.

"It's helped us get a huge amount of editorial publicity for the commercial and pulled together a lot of support for the campaign," Guerrero says.

The Benny Goodman type jazz audio was created by Song Zu, Sydney. Recording took place in one day with some of Australia's top jazz musicians participating.

Prior to the launch, the ad was previewed by media. Clients organized lunch parties where after guests were served with perfectly tasty soup, a chef asked everyone how the fare was. A "drama" was played out where the client complained that it was too salty and the chef made a scene. As everyone thought a ruckus commotion would happen, the show unfolded and the sneak preview went on.

The campaign broke all over Asia last year with a 120-second spot in its initial runs.

CREDITS:
AGENCY: BBDO ASIA-PACIFIC
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SR. ART DIRECTOR: VERONICA PHUA
SR. COPYWRITER: TOM TRINIDAD
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: JERRY GENTEMANN
AGENCY PRODUCER: BRUCE DAVIDSON
DIRECTOR: BRUCE HUNT
CINEMATOGRAPHER: GARRY PHILLIPS
EDITOR: DREW THOMPSON
3D ANIMATOR: STEVE OAKLEY
MUSIC & SOUND STUDIO: SONG ZU, SYDNEY
COMPOSER: MARK RIVETT
SOUND DESIGN: SIMON KANE

# *Memorial lots make sound investments*

INVESTING in memorial lots may sound morbid to some people but investment-savvy individuals realize the consistently rising value of this small parcel of land.

"It's a sound and profitable investment because it's real estate that appreciates in value and at the same time, getting a memorial lot is a good way of preparing for the future," says Jack Kidwiler, chair and president of Rosehills Memorial Management (Philippines) Inc., the company that manages The Heritage Park.

The Heritage Park will soon have more than 20 types of properties available to its potential investors that range from single niche spaces to 50-lot estates, which can be paid through several payment options. After full payment of the lot, a Certificate of Investment is issued to the investor.

The Heritage Park features first-rate amenities spread out over 76 hectares of manicured greens and breathtaking scenery. Located at the heart of Fort Bonifacio, The Heritage Park is very accessible from Quezon City, Makati and the South via C-5 and Edsa. It is merely five minutes away from the Manila Polo Club, the Manila Golf Club and Forbes Park. During All Souls' Day, families and visitors won't have to deal with traffic, which is common among other cemeteries.

Moreover, The Heritage Park lets visitors and families pay homage to their departed loved ones as well as have fun and exciting moments through its many amenities like a chapel, a kid's room, jogging lanes and a lagoon teeming with all sorts of fish.

To ensure the lifetime protection of your investments, The Heritage Park established Perpetual Care Trust Fund for the purpose of lifetime maintenance, upkeep and continuous enhancement of the park.

Kidwiler says, "Investing at The Heritage Park is more than just preserving the fond memories of your dearly departed. In effect, it's also like creating new memories that are worth cherishing forever." *(For details, call 845-2341 or 845-2342.)*

**THE PARK offers more than 20 types of properties from single niche spaces to 50-lot estates.**

# Local franchise tax: A case of disenfranchisement?

**By Gorgonio B. Elarmo Jr.**
*SGV & Co.*

**TAX-FILES**

LOCAL government units (LGUs) have been granted the authority to create their own sources of revenues and to levy taxes under the Local Government Code of 1991.

One of the taxes which LGUs may impose under the LGC is the franchise tax.

Section 193 of the LGC provides that, unless otherwise provided therein, tax exemptions or incentives granted to, or presently enjoyed by all persons, whether natural or juridical, including government-owned or -controlled corporations, except local water districts, cooperatives duly registered under Republic Act No. 6938, non-stock and non-profit hospitals and educational institutions, are thereby withdrawn upon the LGC's effectivity.

Section 534 states that all general and special laws, acts, city charters, decrees, executive orders, proclamations and administrative regulations, or part or parts thereof which are inconsistent with any of the provisions of the LGC are thereby repealed or modified accordingly.

## Disagreements

As a consequence, corporations who have been previously enjoying tax exemption or special tax privileges under their respective franchises have been affected by the provision.

Affected corporations argue that the provisions of the LGC cannot be interpreted to operate as to deprive them of the tax exemption given to them under their respective franchises. Otherwise, it would constitute a violation of the constitutional prohibition on impairment of contracts.

**1. Implied repeal.** Franchisees assert that Section 534(f) of the LGC is a general repealing clause and, as such, it may not be construed as repealing the tax exemption given to them by the law which grants them their respective franchises. It is certainly not an express repealing clause because it fails to designate the specific act or acts identified by number or title, that are intended to be repealed. It is also true that repeals by implication are not favored as laws are presumed to be passed with deliberation and full knowledge of all laws existing on the subject. A general law cannot be construed to have repealed a special law by mere implication unless the intent to repeal or alter is manifest and it must be convincingly demonstrated that the two laws are so clearly repugnant and patently inconsistent that they cannot co-exist. A general law does not nullify a specific or a special law.

There is no dispute that the LGC, which took effect on Jan. 1, 1992, is a general law, while franchises are special laws.

However, the general rule is not applicable to the case of local franchise tax imposed by the LGC. Where the legislature clearly intended the later general enactment to cover the whole subject and to repeal all prior laws inconsistent with it, the general law prevails over the special law. In the absence of an express repeal, the rule is that the general law and special law on the same subject matter are deemed statutes in *pari materia* and should be read together and harmonized, if possible, with a view to giving effect to every provision thereof. If harmonization is impossible, the rule is that the earlier enactment must yield to the later one, it being the later expression of legislative will.

A later law or enactment repeals an earlier enactment which is repugnant thereto.

Applying this rule, in case of conflict, the provisions of the LGC which took effect on Jan. 1, 1992, should prevail over the tax exemption provision of franchises issued before the LGC's effectivity.

Moreover, since there is no rule of law to prevent the repeal of a special law by a later general statute, prior special or local statutes may be repealed by implication from the enactment of a later general statute where the legislative intent to effectuate a repeal is unequivocably expressed.

Not only does the LGC, which is a general law, provide in its repealing clause that "(A)ll general and special laws, acts, city charters, decrees, executive orders, proclamations and administrative regulations, or part or parts thereof which are inconsistent with any of the provisions of this code are hereby repealed or modified accordingly" (Section 534[f]), but it also expressly provides that "(N)otwithstanding any exemption granted by any law or other special law, the province (or city) may impose a tax on business enjoying a franchise" (Section 137).

## Exemptions

It should be noted that unless otherwise provided in the code, tax exemptions or incentives granted to persons or entities have unequivocably been withdrawn, and their enjoyment is now specifically limited to "local water districts, cooperatives duly registered under RA 6938, non-stock and non-profit hospitals and educational institutions."

Since the intention to repeal the special law, i.e., the franchise, is quite manifest, then the rule that the special law will be considered as an exception to the general law does not apply.

The explicit language of Section 137 which authorizes the province to impose franchise tax "notwithstanding any exemption granted by any law or other special law" is all-encompassing and clear. The franchise tax can be imposed despite any exemption enjoyed under special laws.

Section 193 buttresses the withdrawal of existing tax exemption privileges. By stating that unless otherwise provided in the said code, tax exemption or incentives granted to or presently enjoyed by all persons whether natural or juridical, including government-owned or -controlled corporations except (1) local water districts, (2) cooperatives duly registered under RA 6938, (3) non-stock and non-profit hospitals and educational institutions, are withdrawn upon the effectivity of the said code, the obvious import of the law is to limit the exemptions to the three enumerated entities.

In the absence of any provision of the LGC to the contrary, any existing tax exemptions or incentives enjoyed by franchise holders under their respective charters under existing law were clearly intended to be withdrawn upon the effectivity of the LGC.

Since it would not only be tedious and impractical to attempt to enumerate all the existing statutes providing for special tax exemptions or privileges, the LGC provided for an express, albeit general, withdrawal of such exemptions or privileges. No more unequivocal language could have been used.

The power to tax is the most effective instrument to raise needed revenues to finance and support myriad activities of local government units for the delivery of basic services essential to the promotion of the general welfare and the enhancement of peace, progress and prosperity of the people.

**2. Non-impairment of contract.** Franchisees also argue that the local franchise tax contravenes the non-impairment clause of the Constitution which states that "(N)o law impairing the obligation of contracts shall be passed." They claim that a franchise is in a nature of a contract between the government and the grantee.

Franchisees invoke jurisprudence, i.e., Supreme Court decisions and commentaries on the franchisees' claim that the LGC is violative of the "non-impairment clause" as it changes the terms of the legal contract or franchise between the parties and imposes new conditions or dispenses with those expressed. Franchisees say their respective franchises are public contracts, which are protected by the "non-impairment clause" or "contract clause," just like private agreements. A public contract, for purposes of invoking the non-impairment clause, is a contract to which at least one of the parties is a government body. Various grants by states and their political subdivisions, once accepted by the private party, have been deemed contracts within the meaning of the contract clause. Accordingly, covered by the constitutional guarantee are franchises given to utilities and others, land grants, charters given to private corporations and tax exemptions.

Franchisees believe that a franchise is in the nature of a contractual right; hence, it is protected by the "non-impairment clause."

It cannot be construed as having been repealed by the LGC without impairing their vested rights. The repeal of a statute does not destroy or impair rights that accrued and became vested under the statute before its repeal. If only other construction is possible, the statute should not be construed so as to affect the rights which have vested under the old law then in force, including the rights under a contract. For the Constitution forbids the state from impairing, by enactment or repeal of law, vested rights or obligations of contract.

A franchise is not covered by the application of the constitutional prohibition from impairment of contracts. This is so because although tax exemptions contained in special franchises have been referred to as being in the nature of contracts and a part of the inducement for carrying on the franchise, these exemptions, nevertheless, are far from being strictly contractual in nature.

Moreover, contractual tax exemptions, where the non-impairment clause of the Constitution can rightly be invoked, are those agreed to by the taxing authority in contracts, such as those contained in government bonds or debentures, lawfully entered into by them under enabling laws in which the government, acting in its private capacity, sheds its cloak of authority and waives its governmental immunity. Truly, tax exemptions of this kind may not be revoked without impairing the obligations of contracts. These contractual tax exemptions, however, are not to be confused with tax exemptions granted under franchises.

The Constitution is explicit that no franchise for the operation of a public utility shall be granted except under the condition that such privilege shall be subject to amendment, alteration or repeal by Congress as and when the common good so requires. With or without the reservation clause, franchises are subject to alterations through a reasonable exercise of the police power; they are also subject to alteration by the power to tax, which like police power cannot be contracted away.

The grant of taxing powers to local government units under the Constitution and the LGC does not affect the power of Congress to grant exemptions to certain persons, pursuant to a declared national policy. The legal effect of the constitutional grant to local governments simply means that in interpreting statutory provisions on local government taxing powers, doubts must be resolved in favor of LGUs.

## Conclusion

The existing rules governing the imposition of local franchise tax may be summed:

1. All tax exemptions in franchises that have been granted prior to the effectivity of the LGC on Jan. 1, 1992 are repealed and withdrawn. Hence, the franchisees are subject to the imposition of local franchise tax.

2. All tax exemptions in franchises granted subsequent to the effectivity of the LGC, including the subsequent amendment of an existing franchise after the effectivity of the LGC which reinstates the franchisee's tax exemption, operate as an exemption from the local franchise tax.

One way through which LGUs are able to create their own sources of revenues is by imposing a local franchise tax on businesses enjoying a franchise, among other taxes, fees and charges.

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**John 17:9**

# ELIODORO "BONI" YUPANGCO OCAMPO

May 14, 1934 - October 29, 2002
(Husband of the late **EMMA M. OCAMPO**)

*Peacefully joined his Creator at the age of 68.*

He is survived by present wife **Ellen**; children **Anthony** and **Maritess**; **Clarence** and **Carmelita**; **Dominic** and **Emmeline**; **Ferdinand**; **Graciela**; **Hector**; **Ismael** and **Vivian**; **Tony** and **Jojot**; his 21 grandchildren; his sister **Angelina** and other relatives who request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Mortuary of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish, West Triangle, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, November 3, 2002, at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

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30 October 2002

## INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

The City Government of Olongapo invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for furnishing the necessary labor, materials and equipment for the following projects to wit:

| Item No. | Name of Project/ Location | Description | Approved Budget for the Contract Works | Required PCAB Registration and Classification |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Package I | 1. Construction of City Hall Building Extension | a. The project calls for the construction of a three storey building having a total floor area of 1,208.00 square meters.<br>b. The said extension will house the offices of City Health, Population Commission, Urban Basic Services Program and City Social Welfare and Development Office. This would make the offices all under one roof thereby expediting the flow of transactions. | P13.0 Million | Medium A (Building construction) |
| Package II | 2. Construction of Covered Court at Rizal Triangle | | P10.0 Million | Medium A (Building construction) |

Interested bidders with the above cited PCAB classification and prequalified by the Local PBAC are eligible to bid for the above cited projects and are requested to submit the needed documents independently.

Pre-C forms shall be made available to contractors classified above at the PBAC Secretariat, City Planning and Development Office upon submittal of Letter of Intent and latest PCAB License on November 11, 2002 at the Office of the PBAC Chairman, Office of the City Mayor, 2nd Floor City Hall Olongapo City. Prospective bidders are required to bring original copy of Contractor's License for verification/authentication purposes.

Deadline for submission of duly accomplished prequalification statements shall not be later than 5:00 P.M., 25 November 2002 to be submitted at the City Planning and Development Office, 2nd Floor, City Hall, this city. The Local PBAC shall notify in writing all prequalified and pre-disqualified contractors.

Bid/Tender Documents are available for issuance starting 03 December 2002 at the City Planning and Development Office, 2nd Floor, City Hall upon payment of the non-refundable fee of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00) for Package I and Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P2,500.00) for Package II project at the City Treasurer's Office, this city.

All bids from prequalified contractors must be submitted to and received not later than 10:00 A.M. on 18 December 2002 at the Office of the Chairman, PBAC, this city after which all bids will be publicly opened.

A pre-bid conference will be conducted on 10 December 2002 at 10:00 A.M. at the City Council Session Hall, 2nd Floor, City Hall, Olongapo City.

All particulars relative to the pre-qualification, bid evaluation and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of P.D. 1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended and other applicable rules and regulations.

The City Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects or informalities found therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the City.

(Sgd.) KATE H. GORDON
City Mayor

(PDI--Nov. 1, 4 & 11, 2002)

---

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1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 6560140

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2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

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---

COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
THE PROBATE AND FAMILY
COURT

HAMPDEN Division
Docket No. 02A0090AC1

In the Matter of WILLIAM ROBERT RODRIGUEZ minor of SPRINGFIELD
In the County of HAMPDEN

### CITATION

M.G.L. c. 210 s 6

To DANILO ESCOLANO of QUEZON CITY in the PHILIPPINES, and/or persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Social Services of said Commonwealth.

A petition has been presented to said court by WILLIE MILES JOHNSON of SPRINGFIELD in the Country of HAMPDEN and MARIA THERESA JOHNSON of SPRINGFIELD in the County of HAMPDEN praying for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to WILLIAM RODRIGUEZ JOHNSON.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT SPRINGFIELD ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE FORENOON (10:00 AM) ON NOVEMBER 22, 2002).

WITNESS, HON. DAVID G. SACKS, ESQUIRE, First Justice of said Court at SPRINGFIELD this day, September 4, 2002.

Register of Probate

(PDI--Oct. 18, 25 & Nov. 1, 2002)

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SPECIAL ZONE OF PEACE & DEVELOPMENT
SOCIAL FUND
PHILIPPINES

## INVITATION FOR RE-BID

Date: October 30, 2002
Loan No.: 799P
IFB - 01- 11 - 02

1. The Government of the Philippines through the SZOPAD Social Fund has received a loan from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund for International Development toward the cost of SZOPAD Social Fund Project and it intends to apply a portion of this loan to eligible payment for the Off Grid Rural Electrification Project. The approved budget for the contract in Php 29,313,825.57.
2. The SZOPAD Social Fund now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply; delivery, installation, test and commissioning of the entire five (5) Packages of Off-Grid Power System including the conduct of social preparation works for the project beneficiaries, as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Package 1. | Project Code<br>Project Location | P12-00476<br>Pababag, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi |
| Package 2. | Project Code<br>Project Location | P11-00654<br>Capual, Luuk, Sulu |
| Package 3. | Project Code<br>Project Location | P12-00475<br>Lambug, Parangan, P. Sugala, Tawi-Tawi |
| Package 4. | Project Code<br>Project Location | P12-00477<br>Marang Marang, Languyan, Tawi-Tawi |
| Package 5. | Project Code<br>Project Location | P11-00855<br>Kabukan, Panglima Tahil, Sulu |

3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding Procedures specified in the OPEC Fund for the International Development procurement Guidelines and the Executive Order No. 40 Series of 2001 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from SZOPAD Social Fund and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below.
5. A complete set of bidding document in English language may be purchased by eligible bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of non-refundable fee of Php 2,000 per copy starting **November 7-14, 2002**. The method of payment will be on cash basis only.
6. Bids must be delivered and will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representative who choose to attend at 10:00 A.M. on **December 16, 2002** at the SZOPAD Conference Room, 3rd Floor, VHW (Land Bank) Bldg., Veterans Avenue, Zamboanga City and must be accompanied by a minimum bid security of 2% of the total bid amount.
7. Eligible bidders are invited to attend a Pre-Bid Conference to be held at SZOPAD Social Fund Office on **November 15, 2002** at 1:00 P.M.

Republic of the Philippines
SZOPAD Social Fund
3/F VHW (Land Bank) Bldg.
Veterans Ave., Zamboanga City
Tel. (062) 992-2684-86 / 992-2706
Fax (062) 991-9410
E-mail: Edlim@mozcom.com

(Sgd.) MR. EDWARD I. LIM
*Executive Director*

(PDI--Nov. 1 & 9, 2002)

---

PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY
*PMO - TACLOBAN*

Port Area, Tacloban City Tel. Nos (053) 321-3373, (053) 321-6704 (053) 321-4152, (053) 321-3341
Facsimile No. (053) 325-7248; E-mail Address: ppatac@mozcom.com

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Ports Authority, invites interested bidders to submit Application for Eligibility and subsequently to Bid for the:

A. *Name of Project* — PROPOSED REHABILITATION OF R.C. PIER PORT OF BAYBAY BAYBAY, LEYTE

B. *Scope of Work*
a. General Expenses
b. Demolition/Disposal Works (1,404.00 sq.m.)
c. Reconstruction of R.C. Pier (1,404.00 sq.m.)
d. Mooring System (26 sets - 25T tee head)

C. *Minimum Equipment Requirements:*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| a. | One (1) unit Crawler Crane, 30 Tons capacity | Owned |
| b. | Two (2) units Air Compressor, 250 CFM | Owned |
| c. | Four (4) units Jack Hammer | Owned |
| d. | Two (2) units Welding Machine, Engine driven, 400A | Owned |
| e. | Two (2) units Backhoe w/ breaker, 5 cu.m. cap., 76 HP | Owned |
| f. | Three (3) units Concrete Mixer, one bagger | Owned |
| g. | Three (3) units Concrete Vibrator, 3 HP | Owned |
| h. | Two (2) units Bar Cutter | Owned |
| i | Two (2) units Dump Truck | Owned |
| j. | Four (4) units Cutting Outfit | Owned |
| k. | One (1) unit Forklift | Owned |
| l | Two (2) units Bar bender | Owned |

D. *Project Duration* — 210 Calendar Days
E. *Budget for the Contract* — P 13,834,856.22
*Sources of Funding* — PPA Corporate Fund
F. *Required PCAB Registration & Classification* — Medium "A" Ports and Harbors
G. *Experience*
Similar in nature and complexity with at least 50% of the required quantity for major operations of work as indicated in Form IX, page 2 of 2 of the Eligibility Statement Form
H. *Cost of Eligibility Statement Form* — P 200.00
*Place of Issuance* — BAC Secretariat
PMO - Tacloban
Port Area
Tacloban City
I *Deadline for Submission of Accomplished Eligibility Statement Form* : November 22, 2002
J *Time and date of Pre-bid Conference, as well as the submission and opening of bids shall be indicated in the Notice of Eligibility.*

Only contractor classified and registered with the Philippine Contractor's Accreditation Board (PCAB) with valid and existing Contractor's License and Registration Particulars will be issued Eligibility Forms. The forms are available at the BAC Secretariat, PMO - Tacloban, Port Area, Tacloban City, beginning on the first day of publication of this advertisement. Interested applicants are required to bring a letter of intent and original copy of Contractor's valid PCAB License for verification/authentication purposes

Bid Documents shall be issued only to eligible licensed contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents of P 200.00.

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the provision of PD 1594 and Executive Order No. 40, Series of 2001 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

Further information may be obtained from the following:
BAC Secretariat — Tel. Nos 321-3374
321-3373
PPA Website — www.ppa.gov.ph
E-mail Address — ppatac@mozcom.com

The authority reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any informality in the proposals received and to accept such bid most advantageous to the Philippine Ports Authority.

(Sgd.) FERNANDO B. CLAVERIA
*Port Manager*

(PDI--Nov. 1 & 8, 2002)

---

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# BUSINESS

## Japan unveils long-awaited economic reforms

TOKYO—The Japanese government hammered out a long-awaited economic revival plan Wednesday amid mounting pressure on Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi to reverse the nation's decade-long slump.

The announcement was a breakthrough for Koizumi, who was embarrassed earlier this month when opponents in his own ruling Liberal Democratic Party blocked the release of the blueprint for fear that its reforms were too severe.

"The results of the one-month debate on the problems that have troubled Japan's economy for 10 years were large. I think it is a good start," Japan's get-tough Economy Minister Keizo Takenaka said after unveiling the plan.

But the compromise seemed somewhat watered-down from the hard reforms originally envisioned.

The plan contains vague aims to clear 42 trillion yen (US$336 billion) in bad loans saddling the nation's banks and reverse the trend of falling prices, or deflation, that has undermined corporate profits and caused some firms to go under.

Takenaka's original measures called for tightening the accounting rules for the nation's banks in a way that could increase the amount of bad loans on their books. But some feared the rules would bankrupt banks and make debtor companies go bust.

In the end, the plan made recommended accounting reforms but contained no timeframe or numerical targets for implementing them.

Worried that Japan's jobless rate might rise even higher than the current 5.4 percent, the LDP had earlier urged the government to wait on reforms until it could come up with bolstered unemployment benefits for those thrown out of work by any economic upheaval.

Toward that end, the plan promised to bolster the public safety net for jobless Japanese and calls for special government loans to companies that hire people who lost their jobs. But it was vague on other safety net details.

Koizumi had promised to release the comeback plan by the end of October so it could be implemented by year's end. The leader's popularity now rides on his campaign promises to cure Japan's economic ills: Stagnant growth, record unemployment, a plummeting stock market and debilitating deflation.

"The government is serious about getting this done," Koizumi said earlier Wednesday, adding that the turnaround would now "proceed in earnest."

Japan's once booming economy began to unravel in the early 1990s with the bursting of the real estate bubble. That wiped out the value of the collateral many banks held against loans to overextended businesses. At the same time, Japan's export-driven companies were getting hollowed out by cheaper competitors elsewhere in Asia.

The Japanese squeezed out 0.5-percent economic growth in the April-June quarter but the economy shrank for four straight quarters before that—the first time Japan recorded a full year of contraction since Tokyo began keeping such records in 1980.

Ryo Hino, an analyst with JP Morgan in Tokyo, said the government would need to complement the reforms with an extra budget to further stimulate the economy, part through the unemployment safety net. *AP*

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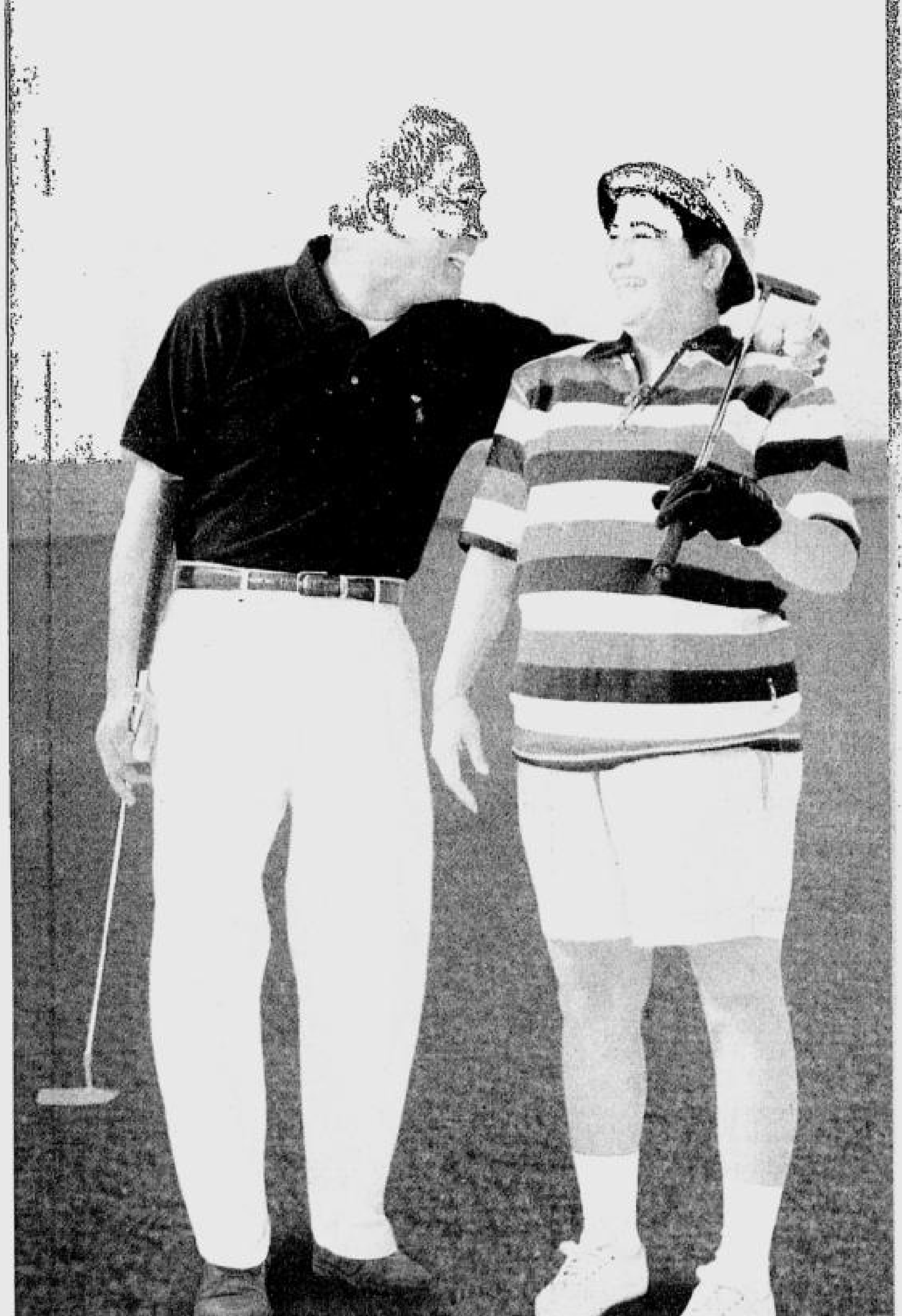

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## October jobs report in US seen grim

WASHINGTON—The US labor scene was dismal at best in October, economists predict, bolstering the case for a Federal Reserve interest rate cut to breathe life into an economic recovery in danger of stalling.

Data out over the past few weeks have shown little evidence that US businesses are at all comfortable with spending, particularly on new hires.

Some economists are even raising the possibility the economy may have already sunk into a second leg of recession, potentially delaying until deep into next year a turnaround in the labor market.

"It's not a question of whether the economy is going to fall back into recession, it's whether we did fall into recession," said Mark Vitner, senior economist at Wachovia Securities in Charlotte, N.C. "If anything, it looks like we're losing momentum."

Friday's employment report, set for release by the Labor Department at 8:30 a.m. (1330 GMT), is expected to be a pivotal factor in the Fed's interest-rate decision next Wednesday.

Most Wall Street analysts say another weak employment report— as economists expect October's will be—would all but cement the likelihood of an interest rate reduction by the policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee.

Economists in a Reuters poll forecast, on average, that the unemployment rate will rise to 5.8 percent from 5.6 percent with the economy adding a scant 7,000 jobs after losing 43,000 in September.

The September report presented a muddied picture, however, because while employers reported a drop in payrolls, the Labor Department's survey of households showed a lower jobless rate.

Analysts are likely to watch how this divergence evolves to see whether the household or the employer survey is presenting the most accurate reflection of the job market.

Average hourly earnings are expected to advance by the same 0.3 percent seen in September, while the average workweek is expected to edge down to 34.2 hours from 34.3 hours.

## US firms not spending enough

NEW YORK—American businesses are playing Scrooge. They just aren't spending.

For most of this year, Federal Reserve policymakers have held out hope that firms would soon start investing again, putting the US economic recovery back on a solid footing.

But those hopes look increasingly vain as the dour mood in corporate America shows no signs of lifting.

"Corporations are under-spending their existing (equipment) budgets," said Joe Tucci, chief executive of EMC Corp. , the leading maker of data storage machines. Instead, they are using capital savings to offset revenue shortfalls, he said.

This pullback in capital spending, coupled with signs the consumer may be flagging, is raising fresh doubts about growth and stoking speculation the Fed may cut interest rates, already at four-decade lows of 1.75 percent, when it meets next week.

Buffeted by the summer stock downturn, accounting scandals and worries about tapped-out consumers, corporate America is hunkered down. Most of all, firms want evidence the consumer will keep buying before they risk making fresh investments.

"The No. 1 constraint for firms is the concern about consumer spending," Chicago Fed economic advisor Bill Strauss told Reuters in an interview.

"The money is available, profits are coming back somewhat, but it's hard for them to justify half a million on a new machine if they think the market is not going to be there a year or so out," Strauss said.

"It's a chicken and egg situation." It's unclear a rate cut will help firms directly. Companies are more worried about cleaning up their balance sheets than financing expansion. But if it serves to keep consumers spending, that may reassure businesses they can invest again. *Reuters*

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NOVEMBER 1, 2002
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Trend Spotting

FORMAL Ito Kish, in a black Paul Smith suit, white Hugo Boss shirt and Giorgio Armani tie, loosens up on a Kyoto bed with coffee set from Finland and Italian cotton bedding. The Buddha head is 20th-century Thai.

# When bare means more

Design maven Ito Kish sticks to the barest essentials in order to build a stylish wardrobe that lasts

**Text by Alex Y. Vergara**
**Photos by Raymund Isaac**

WHEN Ito Kish moved from a spacious three-bedroom house to a smaller condo unit last year, the president and CEO of Kish International suddenly found himself editing his clothes and simplifying his lifestyle.

## SINGULAR STYLE

To his surprise, discarding excess baggage and sticking to the bare essentials weren't as difficult as he first imagined them to be. Especially after it dawned on him that every item in his wardrobe was expendable, except for a few classic pieces that went by the name of Giorgio Armani.

"The more you mature, the more you simplify things," he says. "I began to realize that a lot of the things I did and had weren't necessary."

Thus, it wasn't hard for Ito to start rearranging his whole life—from his wardrobe and furniture pieces, down to some of his friends.

His love affair with Armani started several years back during a stint in Jakarta. That was during the height of then President Suharto's hold on power, before corruption and mismanagement dragged the country's economy down and sparked widespread unrest throughout the sprawling archipelago.

Ito still keeps a good number of pieces from those "years of living dangerously."

"I believe in quality," he says. "The first real suit I bought with my hard-earned money was an Armani. Some of my Armani shirts have been with me for more than seven years now and they're still in good condition." Not to mention, still wearable, too.

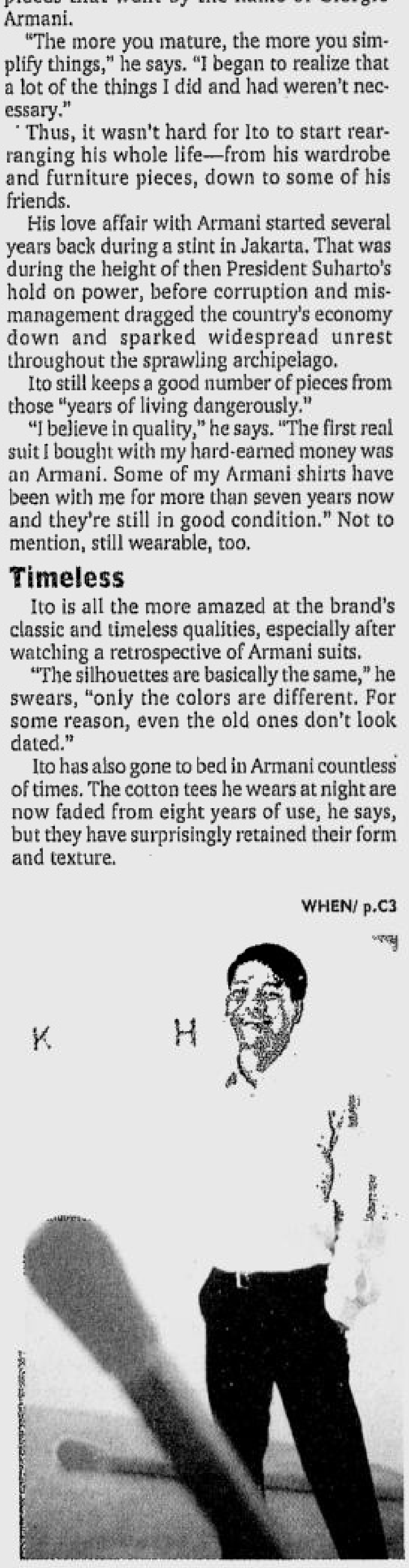
### Timeless

Ito is all the more amazed at the brand's classic and timeless qualities, especially after watching a retrospective of Armani suits.

"The silhouettes are basically the same," he swears, "only the colors are different. For some reason, even the old ones don't look dated."

Ito has also gone to bed in Armani countless of times. The cotton tees he wears at night are now faded from eight years of use, he says, but they have surprisingly retained their form and texture.

WHEN/ p.C3



ITO, in a salmon shirt by Hugo Boss, a pair of charcoal-gray flat-front Giorgio Armani pants and Kenneth Cole belt, welcomes customers at the mini lobby of his home store.

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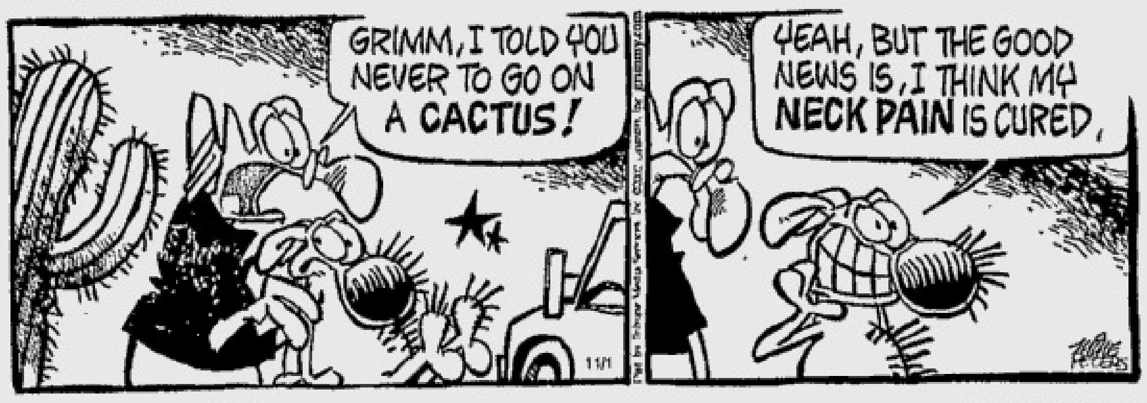
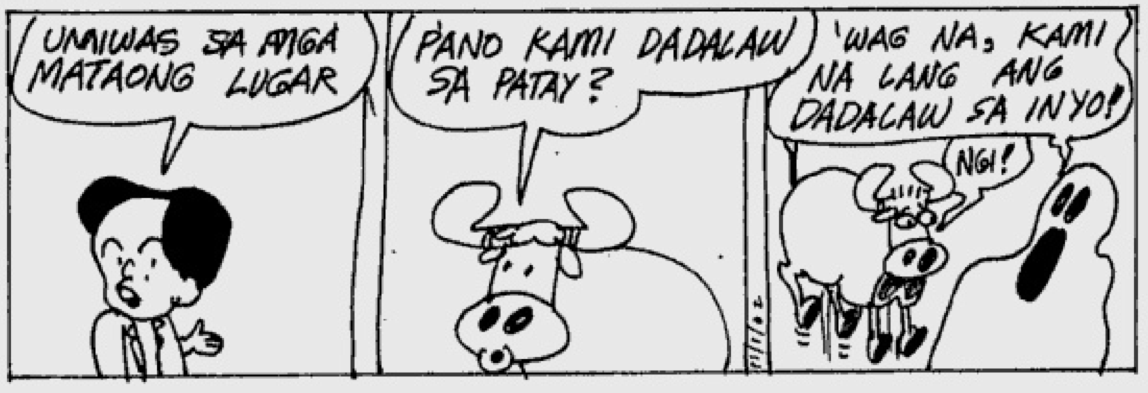
## MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


GRIMM, I TOLD YOU NEVER TO GO ON A CACTUS!
11/1
YEAH, BUT THE GOOD NEWS IS, I THINK MY NECK PAIN IS CURED.
MIKE PETERS

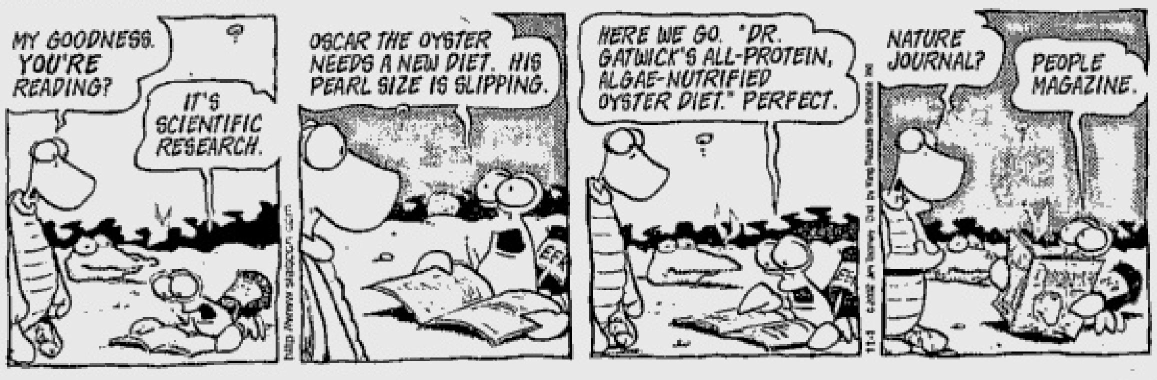
## A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


UMIWAS SA MGA MATAONG LUGAR
PANO KAMI DADALAW SA PATAY?
'WAG NA, KAMI NA LANG ANG DADALAW SA INYO!
NGI!

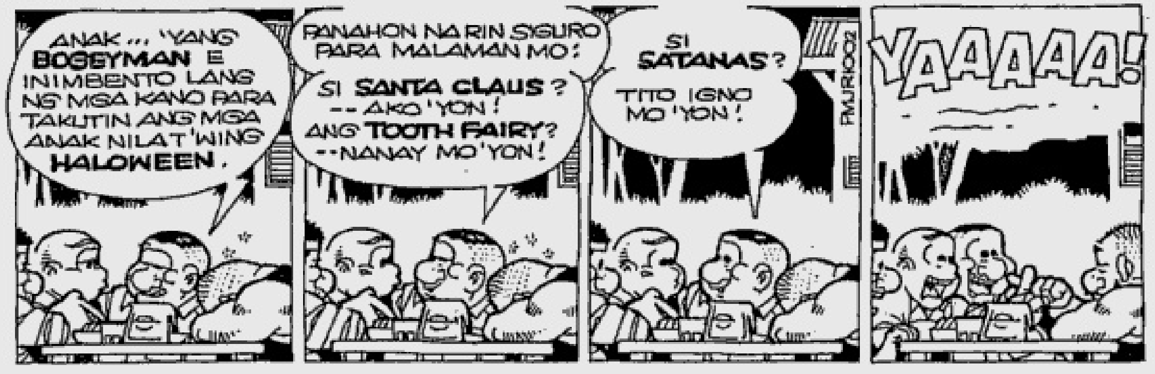
## SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


MY GOODNESS. YOU'RE READING?
IT'S SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.
OSCAR THE OYSTER NEEDS A NEW DIET. HIS PEARL SIZE IS SLIPPING.
HERE WE GO. "DR. GATWICK'S ALL-PROTEIN, ALGAE-NUTRIFIED OYSTER DIET." PERFECT.
NATURE JOURNAL?
PEOPLE MAGAZINE.

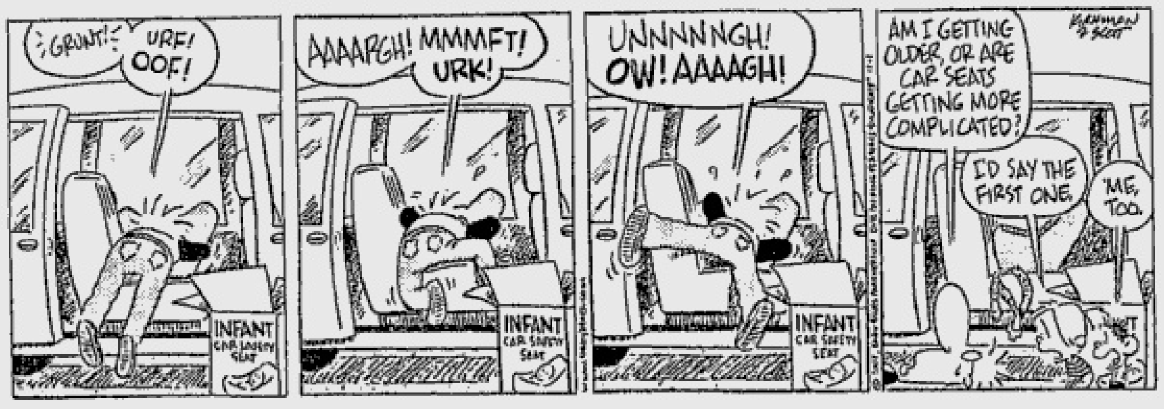
## PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANAK... 'YANG BOGEYMAN E INIMBENTO LANG NG MGA KANO PARA TAKUTIN ANG MGA ANAK NILA T'WING HALOWEEN.
PANAHON NA RIN SIGURO PARA MALAMAN MO:
SI SANTA CLAUS? --AKO 'YON!
ANG TOOTH FAIRY? --NANAY MO 'YON!
SI SATANAS?
TITO IGNO MO 'YON!
PMJR2002
YAAAAA!

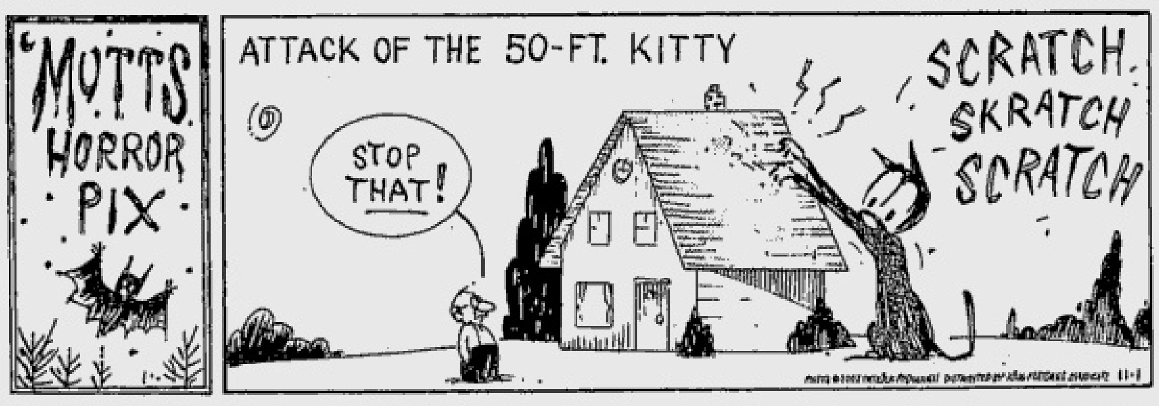
## BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


GRUNT!
URF! OOF!
INFANT CAR SAFETY SEAT
AAAARGH! MMMFT!
URK!
INFANT CAR SAFETY SEAT
UNNNNNGH! OW! AAAAGH!
INFANT CAR SAFETY SEAT
KIRKMAN & SCOTT
AM I GETTING OLDER, OR ARE CAR SEATS GETTING MORE COMPLICATED?
I'D SAY THE FIRST ONE.
ME, TOO.

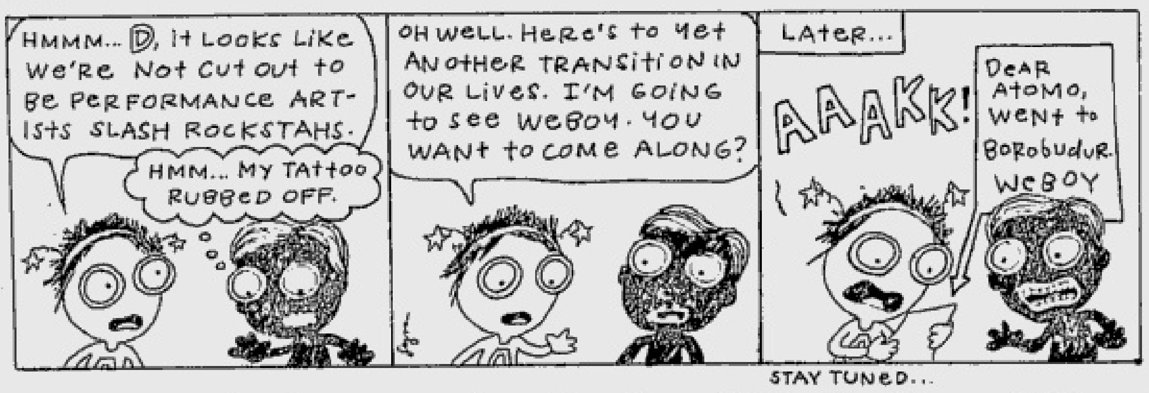
## MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


"MUTTS HORROR PIX"
ATTACK OF THE 50-FT. KITTY
STOP THAT!
SCRATCH
SKRATCH
SCRATCH
11-1

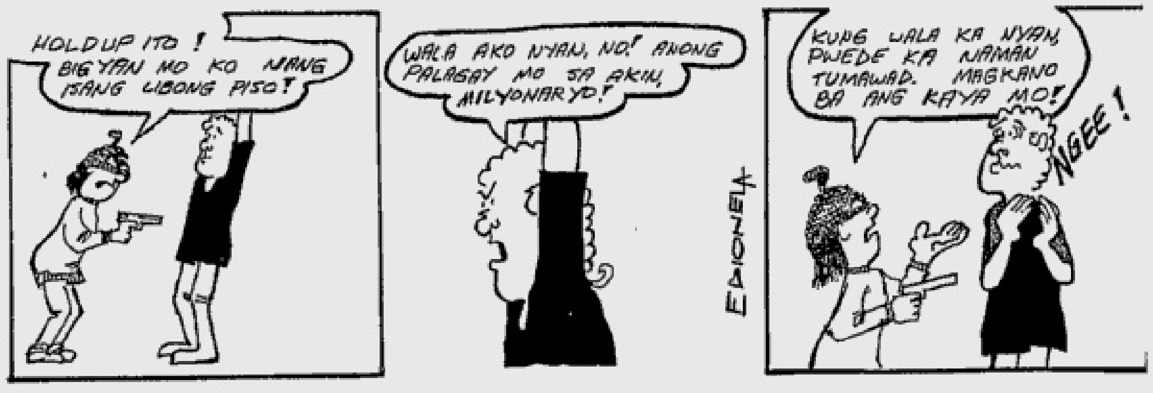
## ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HMMM... D, it Looks Like we're Not Cut out to Be PERFORMANCE ARTists SLASH ROCKSTAHS.
HMM... MY TATtoo RUBBED OFF.
OH WELL. Here's to yet ANother TRANSitiON IN OUR Lives. I'M GOING to see WeBoy. YOU WANT to come ALONG?
LAter...
AAAKK!
Dear Atomo, Went to Borobudur. WeBOY
STAY TUNED...

## SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


HOLDUP ITO! BIGYAN MO KO NANG ISANG LIBONG PISO!
WALA AKO NYAN, NO! ANONG PALAGAY MO SA AKIN, MILYONARYO?
EDIONELA
KUNG WALA KA NYAN, PWEDE KA NAMAN TUMAWAD. MAGKANO BA ANG KAYA MO!
NGEE!

# HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Marcia Wallace, Lyle Lovett, James J. Kilpatrick

**Happy Birthday:** You may be charming but your aggressive behavior will lead to problems. This will be a year of change and one that will require diplomacy. Stick with individuals who share the same beliefs and lifestyle that you do. This can be a progressive year if you don't cloud issues unnecessarily. Your numbers are 5, 19, 26, 32, 35, 44

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** You will be able to work well with colleagues today. Don't let someone take full credit for a group effort. Everyone should receive appreciation for their participation.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** This is a great day to start a new health regimen. You can make personal changes that will enhance your appearance and bring about greater social activities. It's time to create a new you.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** You can do well where property investments are concerned, however, someone you live with may not be thrilled with your decisions. Follow your intuition. Don't worry about others' opinions.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Visit friends or relatives if at all possible. You can make special plans for a quiet evening with the one you love. Passion is strong and you need the attention badly. Your relationship will benefit.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** You can make all the right moves when it comes to work-related matters. Don't let jealous co-workers lead you astray or twist your words. Keep to yourself and concentrate on the matters at hand.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** You will be emotional regarding an issue that you strongly believe in. Don't say things you'll regret later. Try to be diplomatic. You must not be too critical of those you love.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Emotional upset due to secret activities will be most disconcerting. Try not to get too emotionally overwrought. It's important to be detached so that you can think clearly.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** You will get sincere opinions from those who appreciate your talents. It is time to make suggestions to groups you are involved with. Your ideas are perfectly in sync with the goals of the organization.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** You may have to take care of pressing matters at home. This is no time to be a hero. Don't hesitate to ask for professional help. Additional assistance will allow you to deal with the important issues.

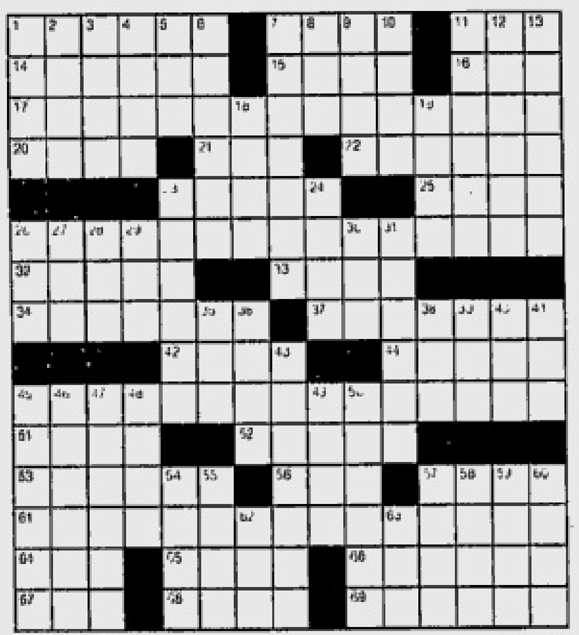
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Your perception is keen and you could be instrumental in turning things around. You may find that help will be offered without asking. Secret talks will bring favorable results.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Chronic health problems may cause you to miss something important. This is a hint for you to take better care of yourself. You have to relax more in order to recuperate properly. Don't be afraid to take chances.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Partnerships with creative people will lead to financial gains. You can offer your mate a commitment or promise that will help stabilize your personal life.

**Birthday Baby:** You will be determined, loving and willing to go the extra mile. You will always take advantage of any opportunity that comes your way. You will have great insight into what you should do, and that will lead to success throughout your life.

# DAILY CROSSWORD



By Bruce Venske
Madison, WI

11/1/02

**ACROSS**
1 Kind of cat
7 Little Joe's brother
11 Doctrine: suff.
14 Kravchuk or Brezhnev
15 Sacramento arena
16 Auditor's letters
17 Lax waxers?
20 Pioneer U.S. auto maker
21 Conclusion
22 Singapore populace
23 Yens
25 "A Death in the Family" author
26 Snoozing janitors?
32 Run-down dwelling
33 Greensward
34 Peeper covers
37 Italian gangsters
42 Rejections
44 __ Rommel
45 Goldbricking scouts?
51 Gardener, at times
52 Lavish meal
53 From one side to the other
56 Betting advice
57 __-Romeo (Italian car)
61 Truant barbers?
64 Golf gadget
65 Milanese eight
66 Close a purse
67 Madison Ave. output
68 As a consequence
69 Excretes

**DOWN**
1 As well
2 Girlfriend of Dudley Do-Right
3 Yummy
4 Burden
5 Manipulate dishonestly
6 Stick
7 Most difficult
8 Spherical body
9 Pond coating
10 Davenport
11 Frozen period
12 More agile
13 Catholic services
18 Art print: abbr.
19 Social stink
23 Signal path to a satellite
24 Dog-paddled
26 That girl
27 Myrna of "The Thin Man"
28 Old-time TV actress Arden
29 Sniggler's catch
30 Significant time period
31 Consequence
35 Unknown John
36 Medieval peon
38 Annoy
39 Be in debt
40 Formal address
41 Election victors
43 Big name in cowboy hats
45 Volcano in the Cascades
46 Requiring a key
47 Eagle quarters
48 Rider's whip
49 Precipitation
50 Seek to attain
54 Catch sight of
55 Adam's third
57 Basilica section
58 Camera element
59 Greek letter grp.
60 Small vipers
62 Highway sign abbr.
63 Cribbage item

**Thursday's Puzzle Solved**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | A | N | S | ■ | F | L | I | P | ■ | A | R | D | E | N |
| A | D | O | S | ■ | L | E | N | A | ■ | L | E | A | R | Y |
| J | O | H | N | C | A | N | D | Y | ■ | M | I | N | I | S |
| O | B | I | ■ | D | R | O | O | P | ■ | A | G | R | E | E |
| R | E | T | I | R | E | S | ■ | H | A | N | N | A | ■ | ■ |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | C | O | D | ■ | M | O | N | A | S | T | I | C |
| S | O | D | O | M | ■ | I | O | N | I | C | ■ | H | O | P |
| T | M | A | N | ■ | A | N | T | E | S | ■ | P | E | T | A |
| E | E | L | ■ | L | I | S | T | S | ■ | S | A | R | A | S |
| P | R | E | S | I | D | I | O | ■ | F | L | U | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■ | ■ | E | M | B | E | D | ■ | U | L | U | L | A | T | E |
| S | A | V | O | R | ■ | E | S | S | E | N | ■ | D | I | A |
| O | S | A | K | A | ■ | J | O | H | N | K | E | A | T | S |
| D | I | N | E | R | ■ | O | D | E | S | ■ | S | P | A | T |
| S | A | S | S | Y | ■ | B | A | R | E | ■ | S | T | N | S |

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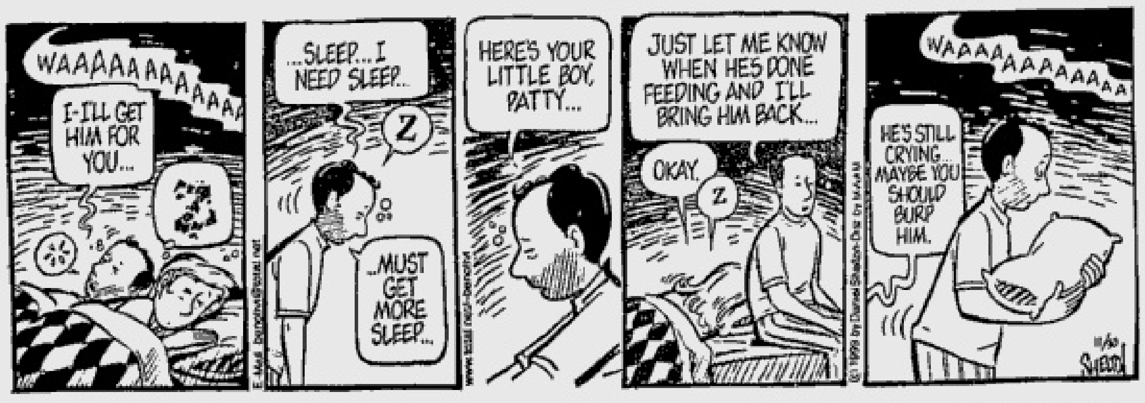
11/1/02

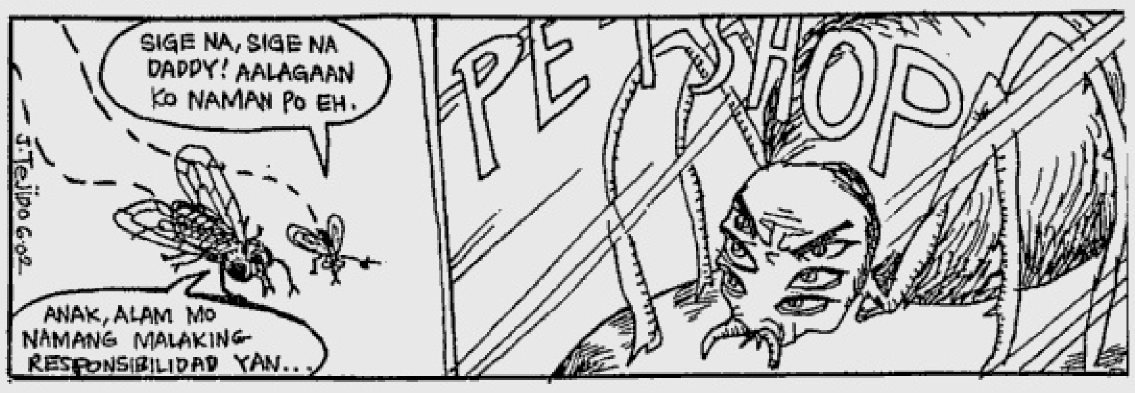
## BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WAAAAAAAAAAAAA
I-I'LL GET HIM FOR YOU...
...SLEEP...I NEED SLEEP...
Z
...MUST GET MORE SLEEP...
HERE'S YOUR LITTLE BOY, PATTY...
JUST LET ME KNOW WHEN HE'S DONE FEEDING AND I'LL BRING HIM BACK...
OKAY.
Z
WAAAAAAAAAAAAA
HE'S STILL CRYING... MAYBE YOU SHOULD BURP HIM.
SHELTON

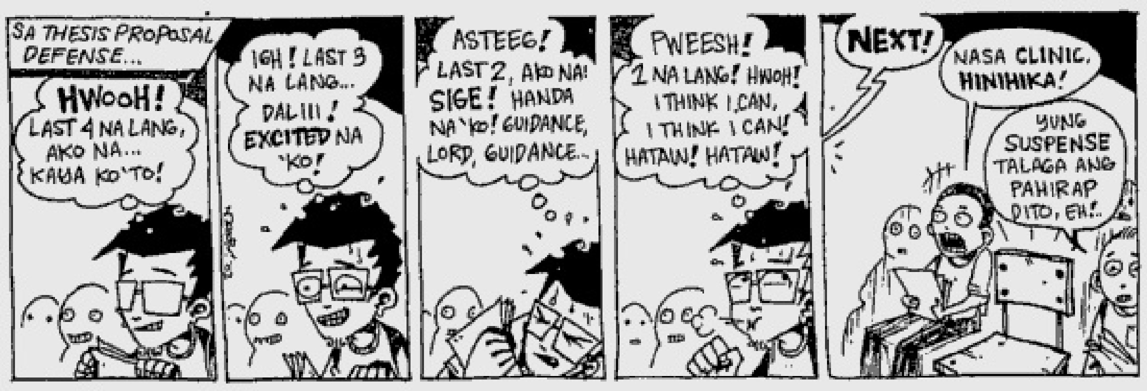
## MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


SIGE NA, SIGE NA DADDY! AALAGAAN KO NAMAN PO EH.
J. Tejido 6.02
ANAK, ALAM MO NAMANG MALAKING RESPONSIBILIDAD YAN...
PET SHOP

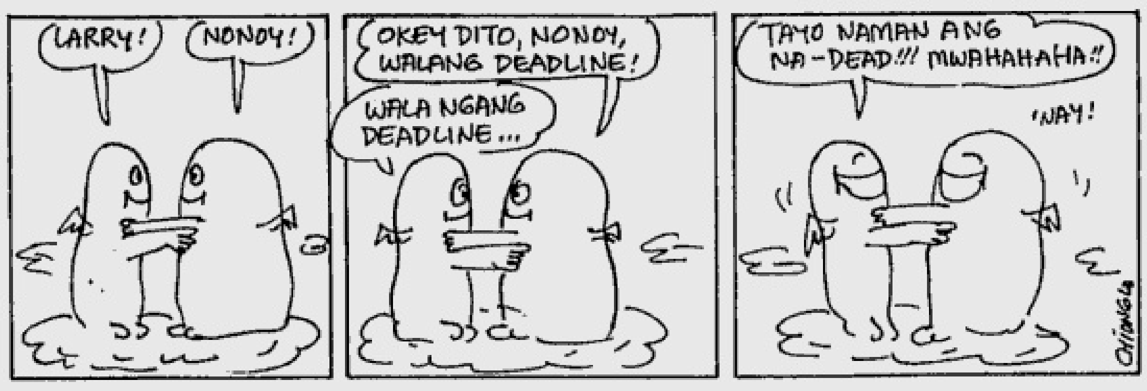
## KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


SA THESIS PROPOSAL DEFENSE...
HWOOH! LAST 4 NA LANG, AKO NA... KAYA KO 'TO!
IGH! LAST 3 NA LANG... DALIII! EXCITED NA 'KO!
ASTEEG! LAST 2, AKO NA! SIGE! HANDA NA 'KO! GUIDANCE, LORD, GUIDANCE...
PWEESH! 1 NA LANG! HWOH! I THINK I CAN, I THINK I CAN! HATAW! HATAW!
NEXT!
NASA CLINIC. HINIHIKA!
YUNG SUSPENSE TALAGA ANG PAHIRAP DITO, EH!

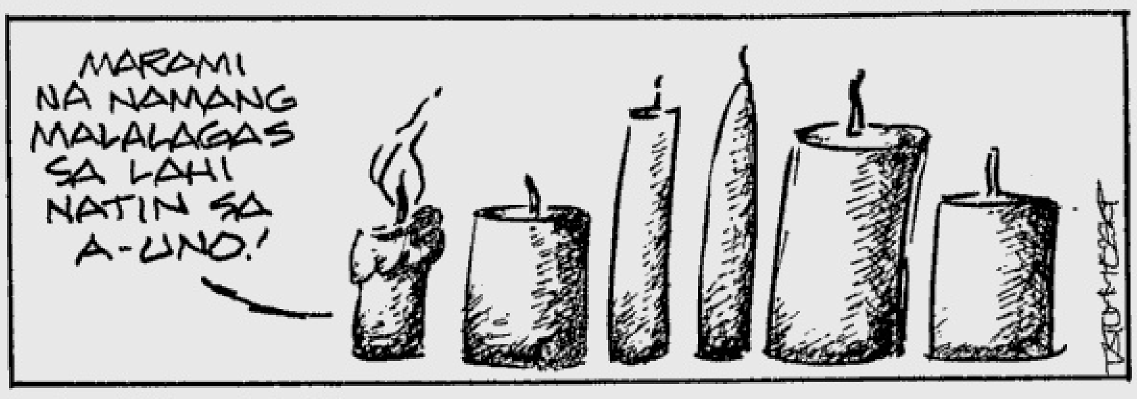
## LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


LARRY!
NONOY!
OKEY DITO, NONOY, WALANG DEADLINE!
WALA NGANG DEADLINE...
TAYO NAMAN ANG NA-DEAD!!! MWAHAHAHA!!
'WAY!
CHIONGLO

## TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


MARAMI NA NAMANG MALALAGAS SA LAHI NATIN SA A-UNO!

# When bare means more

From page C1

"The first time I went to Milan, I only shopped at the Armani store. I love it [brand] for its simplicity."

This doesn't mean that he has closed his mind to other possibilities. As a furniture designer, the concurrent creative director of Urban Effects has purposely kept in step with trends within and outside his field of expertise.

He discovered Paul Smith last year at Glorietta, which he says, compared to Armani, is more bohemian. During the rare moments he goes for shirts in bold colors, chances are they're from Paul Smith.

"Paul Smith offers classic clothes with a twist," he explains. "It's known for its range of colors that allow me to look young effortlessly. If you want to look trendy but safe, then it's definitely for you.".

To date, Ito has a dozen or so shirts, several pairs of jeans and slacks and three suits: two navy-blue Armanis and a black Paul Smith.

When he went to Europe recently, Ito discovered yet another name: Zara, a Spanish brand that, he swears, is better than such American staples as Esprit. He went to a shop in Athens and was surprised at the big volume of shoppers.

Because of his busy schedule, Ito has little time to window-shop. So he makes sure he has a concrete idea of what he wants before going to a store. That doesn't mean, however, he has no more room for pleasant and unexpected finds. As long as it looks good on him, he won't hesitate to shell out money for it.

## Sensible

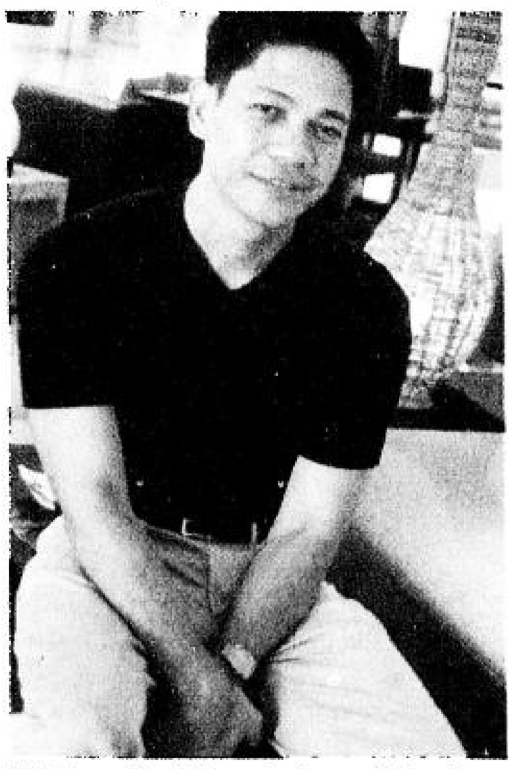
Ito once found himself agonizing over whether to buy or not an expensive shirt that had his name written all over it. He found the Roberto Cavalli top, with its multicolored print and crinkled fabric, too hard to resist. His sensible side prevailed in the end.

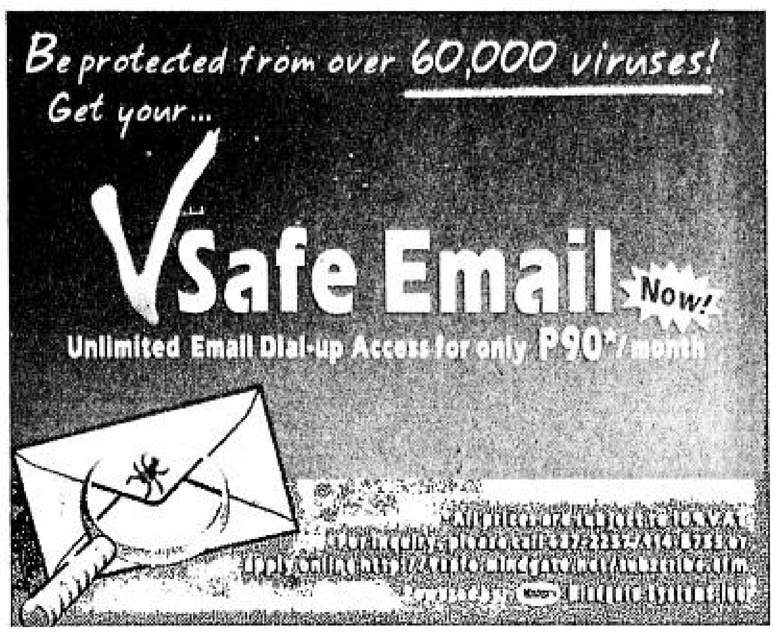
"I still have the body to get away with it," says the lean Ito, who tries to squeeze in a few hours of exercise every week, "but how often can I wear such an attractive shirt before it

WHEN/ p.C4

**WEEKEND** finds Ito, wearing a striped Paul Smith shirt and a pair of Armani Exchange jeans, sitting comfortably on a leather sofa and cowhide throw pillows set before a Lindsay Lee work.

**IMPECCABLE** Ito, in a white Shanghai Tang shirt and a pair of beige Banana Republic pants, leans on a Parisian divan. The lamps were sourced from Egypt, while the old door panels came from Burma.


**ITO**, in a black Emporio Armani V-neck tee, a pair of khaki Kenneth Cole pants and Kenneth Cole belt, goes smart casual whenever he visits the factory.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Key in MONSTER and send to 292.

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# When bare means more

**From page C3**

loses its novelty? It would have definitely stood out."

In contrast, a long-sleeved Banana Republic shirt that has been part of Ito's wardrobe for years never fails to elicit praises. That, he says proudly, is a true test of how good the shirt is.

As an executive who wears many hats, Ito also tries to dress according to the occasion. He can be very casual one day and very corporate the next. He usually goes out in his favorite Nike or Adidas getup on weekends. Should, God forbid, people turn color-blind, Ito would probably be one of the last persons in the world to lose sleep over it.

And what items can't he live without aside from his Armanis? "My classic Levi's jeans, white long sleeves, white tees, white underwear, linen shirts and a good watch."

Rather than be complimented as a fashion plate, Ito would rather be noticed for his knack for investing in quality.

Surprisingly, not all his clothes are expensive. When he travels abroad and wants to be a bit fashionable without overspending, he shops at such stores as H&M, which he says offers cheaper clothes than Gap and Old Navy.

"The prices are very reasonable and the styles are up-to-date," he insists. "Your $200 can buy you a couple of shirts and trousers, a bag, a belt and even a few T-shirts. They don't last for years, but they're very trendy."

And should you decide to start investing in quality clothes, Ito advises that you define your style first before working on your wardrobe.

"Edit your wardrobe every now and then," he adds. "Old, ill-fitting clothes can make you look old." Aside from conforming to fluctuations in your shirt size, your wardrobe must conform to changes in your stature, lifestyle and state of mind as well.

*E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph*

LOCATION: KISH HOME STORE, LEVEL 2, GREENBELT 3, MAKATI (TEL. 757-4002)

**DURING** one of those nights out, Ito, surrounded by South Asian antiquities such as a 19th-century Pakistani door and Indian sari pillows, wears a DKNY cotton shirt with floral prints, a pair of Levi's engineered jeans and red Torsion shoes from Adidas.

# Star-studded fashion show marks eyewear launch

RUDY Project recently showed how to make eyewear exciting with a star-studded show of its 2003 Technically Cool Eyewear collection.

Having been in the eyewear scene since 1985, Rudy Project was founded by Rudy Barbazza, whose goal was to create technologically advanced and innovative eyewear catering to extreme sports men. It is also essential accessory for those who lead a hip lifestyle.

Rudy Project made its mark in the local scene when they hosted a party at the Elbow Room in The Podium to welcome all eyewear aficionados and Manila's party-hungry crowd, followed by an all-out fashion show. The models included not only Manila's top ramp mannequins but popular athletes as well.

Seen sashaying on the ramp were Alaska's Tim Cone, Ali Peek, Don Allado and Rob Duat. Other athletes such as Bing Alto, Kaye Lopez, Popo Nagtalon, Sandra Araullo and Peter Gonzales (from rowing, down-hill biking, triathlon and swimming) showcased Rudy Project's sportswear.

Beautiful models Bianca Araneta, Rissa Samson, Claudine Trillo, Clara Balaguer, Robby Mananquil, Valerie de los Santos also added glamour to the show.

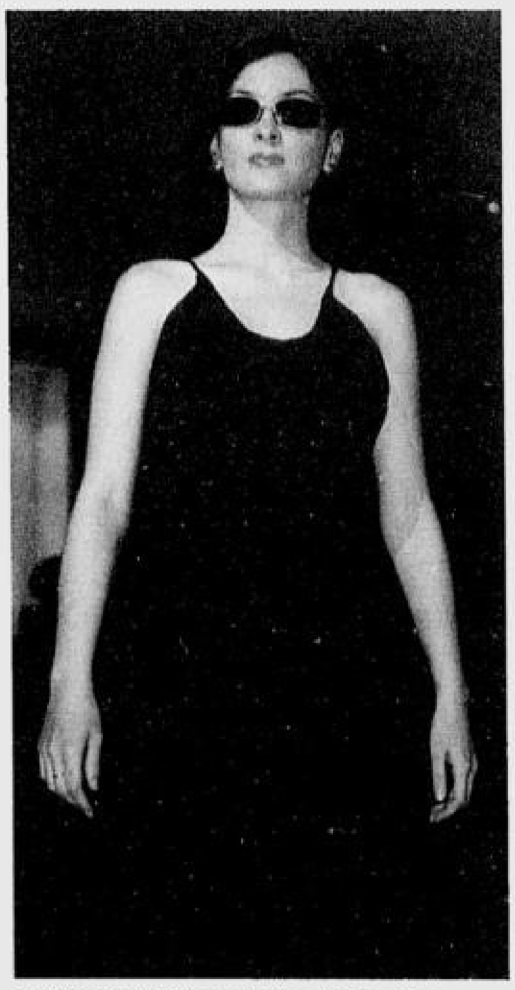
Sports buffs and TV hosts Dyan Castillejo and Anthony Suntay were the evening's hosts.

The event showed the SRO crowd that Rudy Project is not only great for all kinds of sports but is also a perfect eyewear for everyday use.

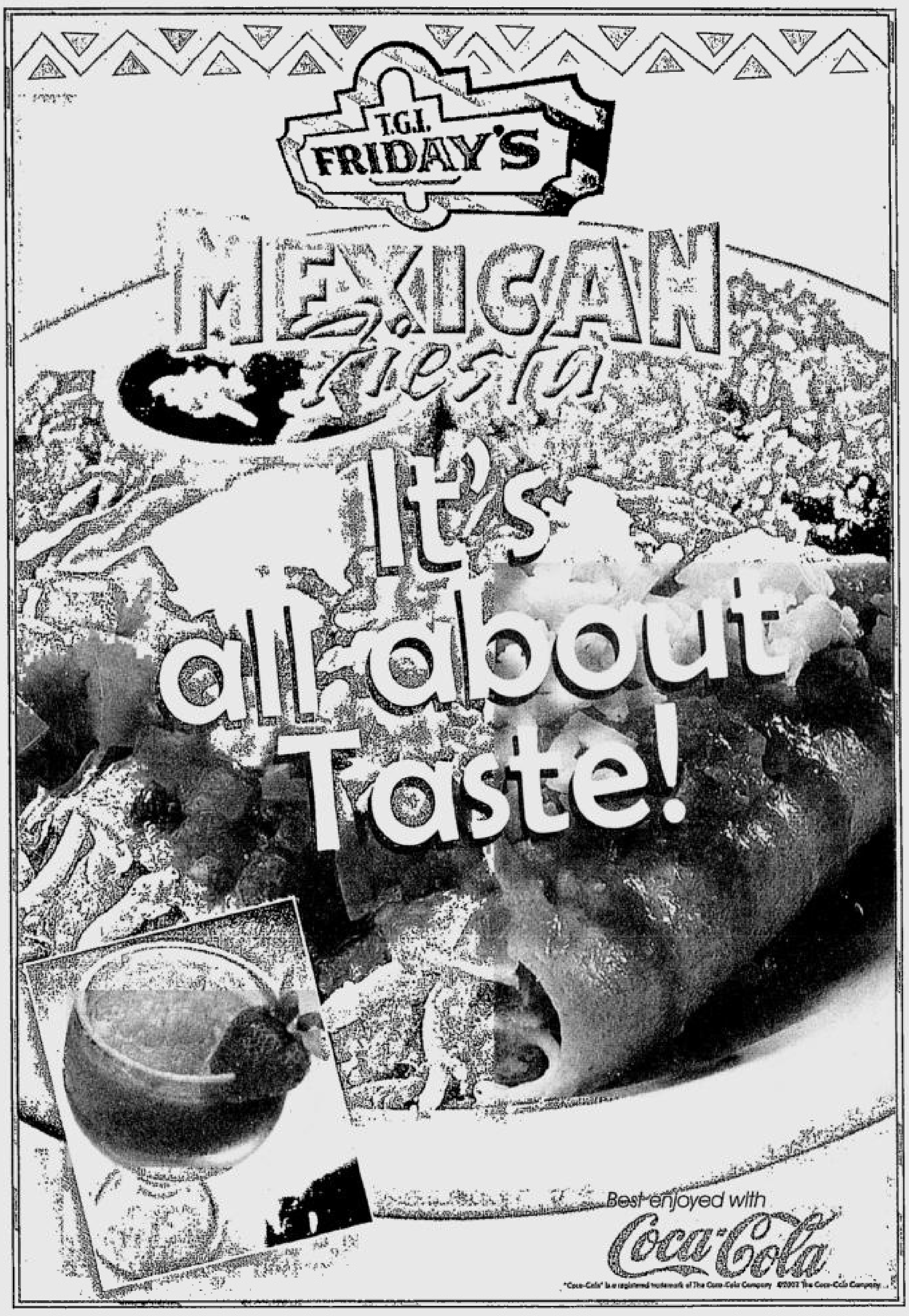
To mark the special occasion, Rudy Project's Cristiano Barbazza, president; Claudio Fantin, export manager; and David Michaud, designer, flew in from Italy to join the celebration.

Check out Rudy Project's latest collection at: Glorietta 4, Alabang Town Center, The Podium, SM Davao and SM Cebu.

**PHOEMELA** Baranda and Ali Peek with their essential accessories



**CLAUDINE** Trillo projects a hip lifestyle.



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# Their boots are made for walking—and the pocketbook

**MAKEOVER 911**

*Kinny Salas*

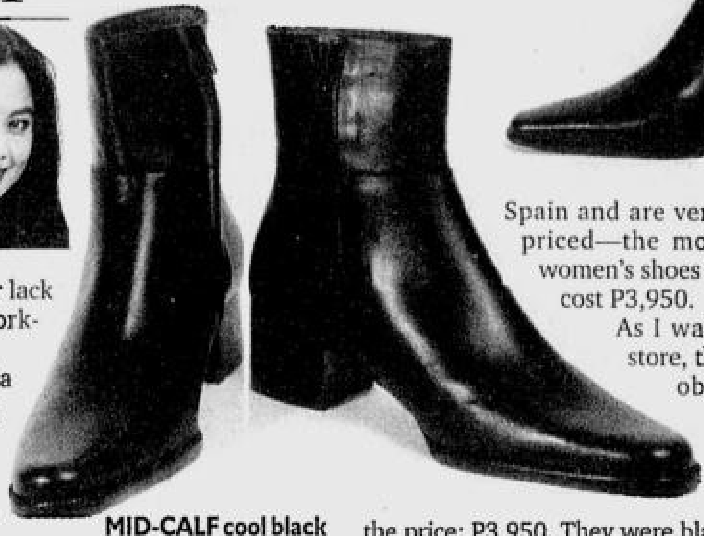
I HAVE always been crazy about boots. I wear them every chance I get, even knee-high ones, with a short skirt. Sure, I get stares, sneers and smirks from people when my boots are of more than above-the-ankle length and worn with a skirt instead of pants, but I don't care.

The obsession is so bad that, for about two years now, I have been searching for one particular pair. I saw it on Portia de Rossi ("Ally McBeal's" Nell Porter) in an article for InStyle Magazine. This pair had very pointed toes with a skinny heel, and she wore them with a pantsuit.

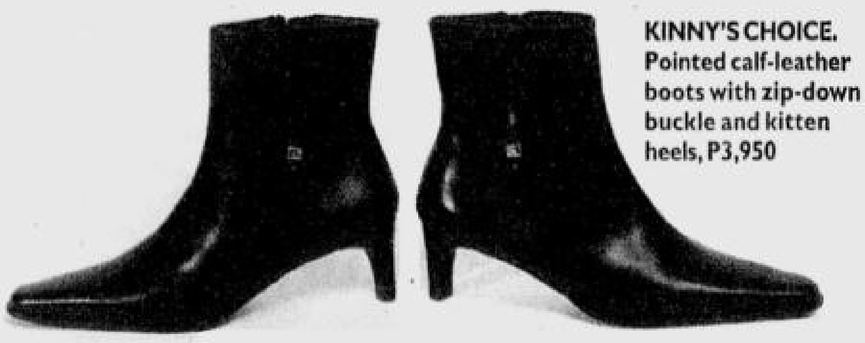
It drives me crazy that every time I open a magazine these days, I see boots on every other page. One of my frustrations is the selection of boots here in the Philippines. Either the styles are so limited or, if you find the one you want, the cost is prohibitive, not less than P6,000. Anything cheaper than that and you can't walk more than 30 steps without limping for lack of arch support or because of bad workmanship.

I was invited by a certain Ria Fernandez and her partner, Coy Chang, to visit their shop Vero Cuoio and "road-test" their shoes. I sat down with them first at a coffee shop outside their Shangri-La Edsa branch for a brief backgrounder.

Vero Cuoio means "genuine leather" in Italian. Their shoes and bags come from Italy and Spain and are very reasonably priced—the most expensive women's shoes are boots that cost P3,950.



**MID-CALF** cool black leather with 1½-inch heels, semi-square toe, P3,900

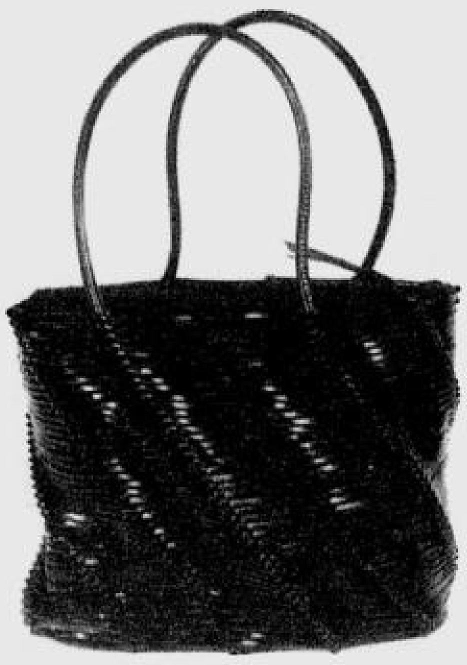


**KINNY'S CHOICE.** Pointed calf-leather boots with zip-down buckle and kitten heels, P3,950

As I walked into the store, the boots I was obsessed with were right there before me. I checked the price: P3,950. They were black with a tiny buckle at the side, pointed, and had low skinny heels that were perfect for walking.

I asked why they didn't have mid-calf and knee-length boots, and they replied that Filipinos would not buy them, even if they fit, because of social pressure. Coy confessed that she wore her high boots only abroad to avoid snide remarks from people here.

But boots are actually suitable for the Philippines, as we follow the fashion in Europe, where they wear boots when it's cold—that means from September to February. July to August is summer there, but it's rainy season here, and there is no better way to protect your feet and legs against the splatter of dirty rainwater, especially if you have to wear skirts in the office, than a pair of boots.



**WOVEN** black Italian leather bag, with soft slanted strap handles (Kinny's bag is chocolate-brown), P1,500

I tried on the boots of my dream and walked around. They were very comfy and I got them right away. (Note: If you like pointy boots, get a pair that is a half or one size bigger than your usual shoes as feet tend to swell with a lot of walking.)

Open-toed slides and sandals with varying heel heights that caught my eye were selling for P1,300 or lower.

I tried the sandals, and they were very flattering to the feet. They were also lightweight and very feminine, but one could tell from the stitching, material and arch support that they were well made.

For such a small store, there were shoes and bags for every personality. I could visualize friends and relatives with tastes very different from mine going crazy over the styles and reasonable prices.

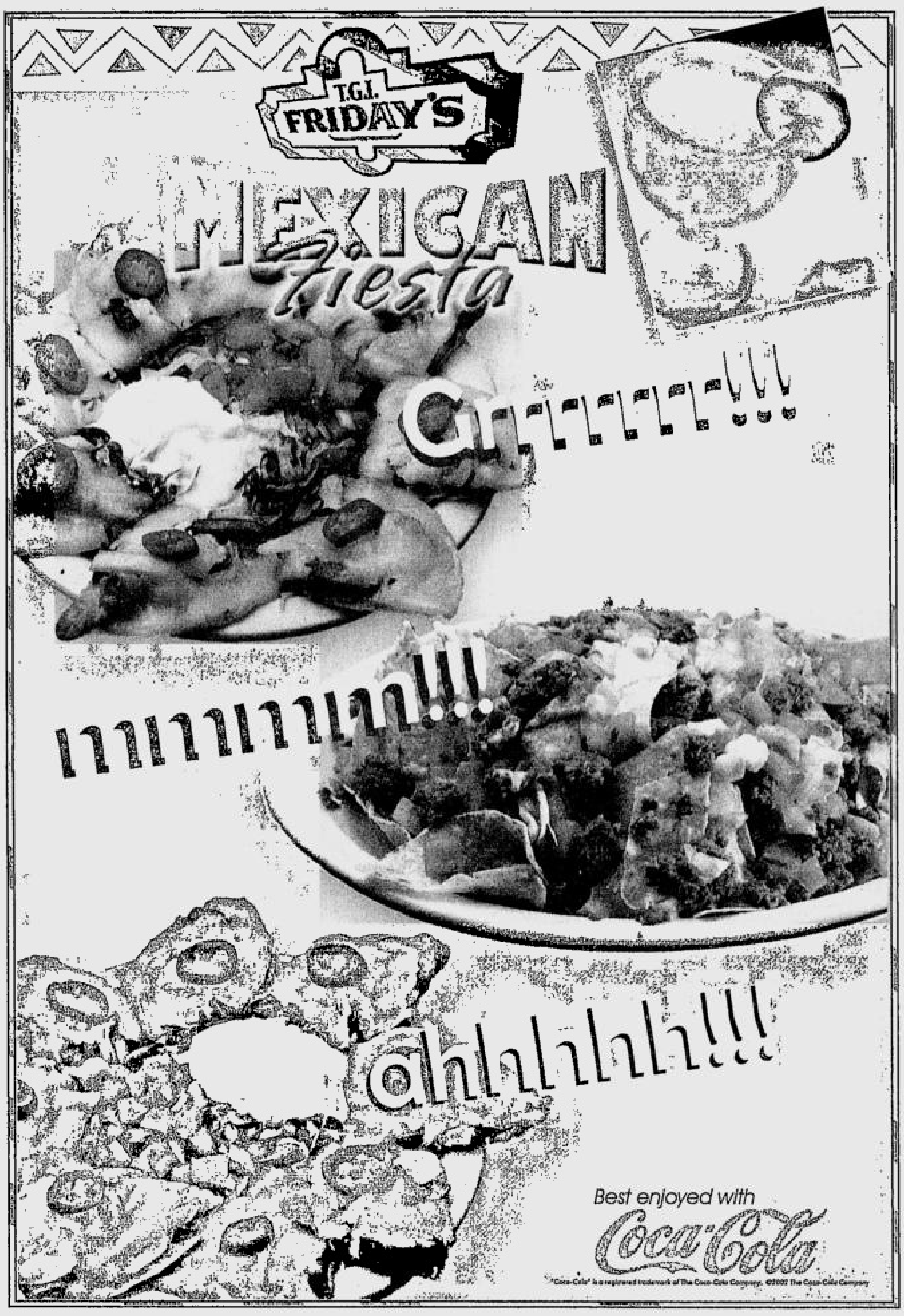
I fell in love with a chocolate-brown leather bag that looked small but could carry a lot of items. It was styled like a geometrical basket with strips of leather knotted at certain points and a detachable pouch inside for valuables. I ended up walking out of there with that, too.

My pointy ankle boots looked great with jeans, and when I asked people to guess how much it cost, no one quoted a price lower than P6,500.

My bag commanded the most attention, though, and people were surprised it cost only P1,500, considering the detail and workmanship.

*Vero Cuoio branches are at Rustan's Tower Shangri-La Edsa; Unit 318-319, 3/F Shangri-La Plaza Edsa, Mandaluyong (tel. 633-6416); 2/L 2009 A Festival Mall, Ayala Alabang; 2/L (L2-140) Main Mall, Robinsons Galleria Edsa corner Ortigas Avenue (tel. 635-3128).*

*For any questions or products you want to road-test, write to Makeover 911, PDI Lifestyle, or fax to 897-4805*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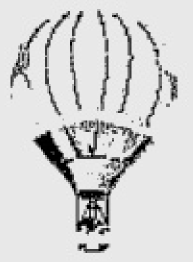
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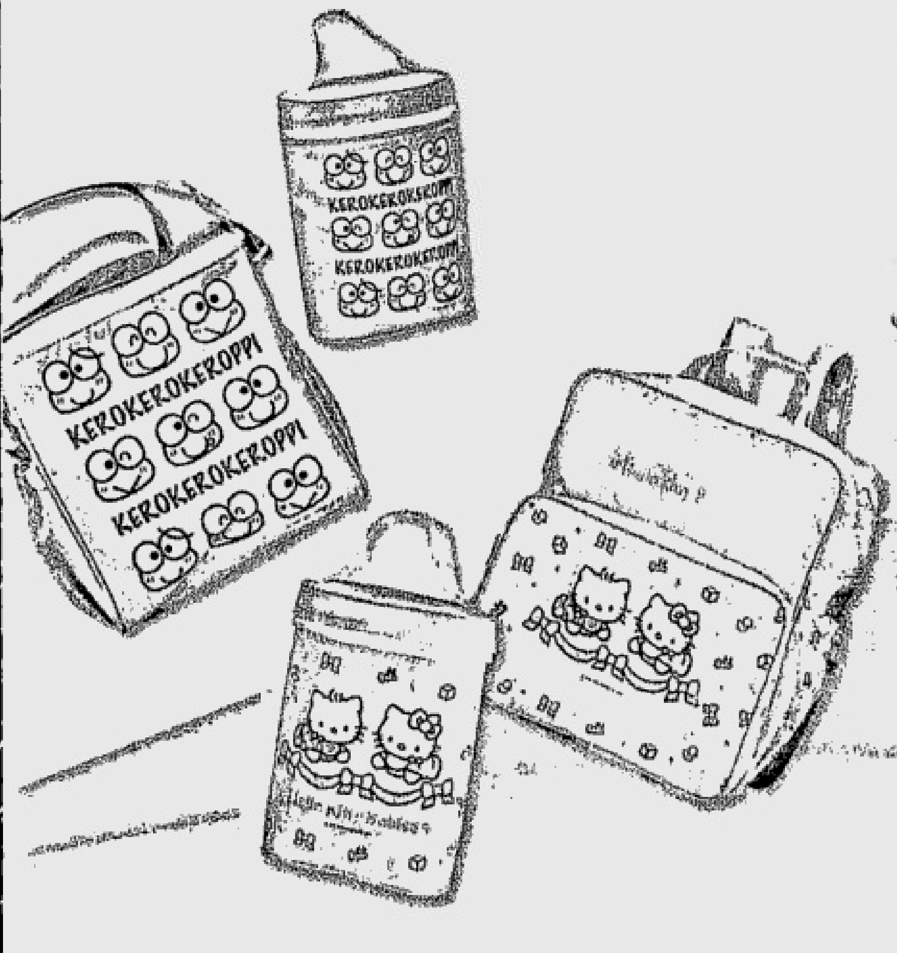

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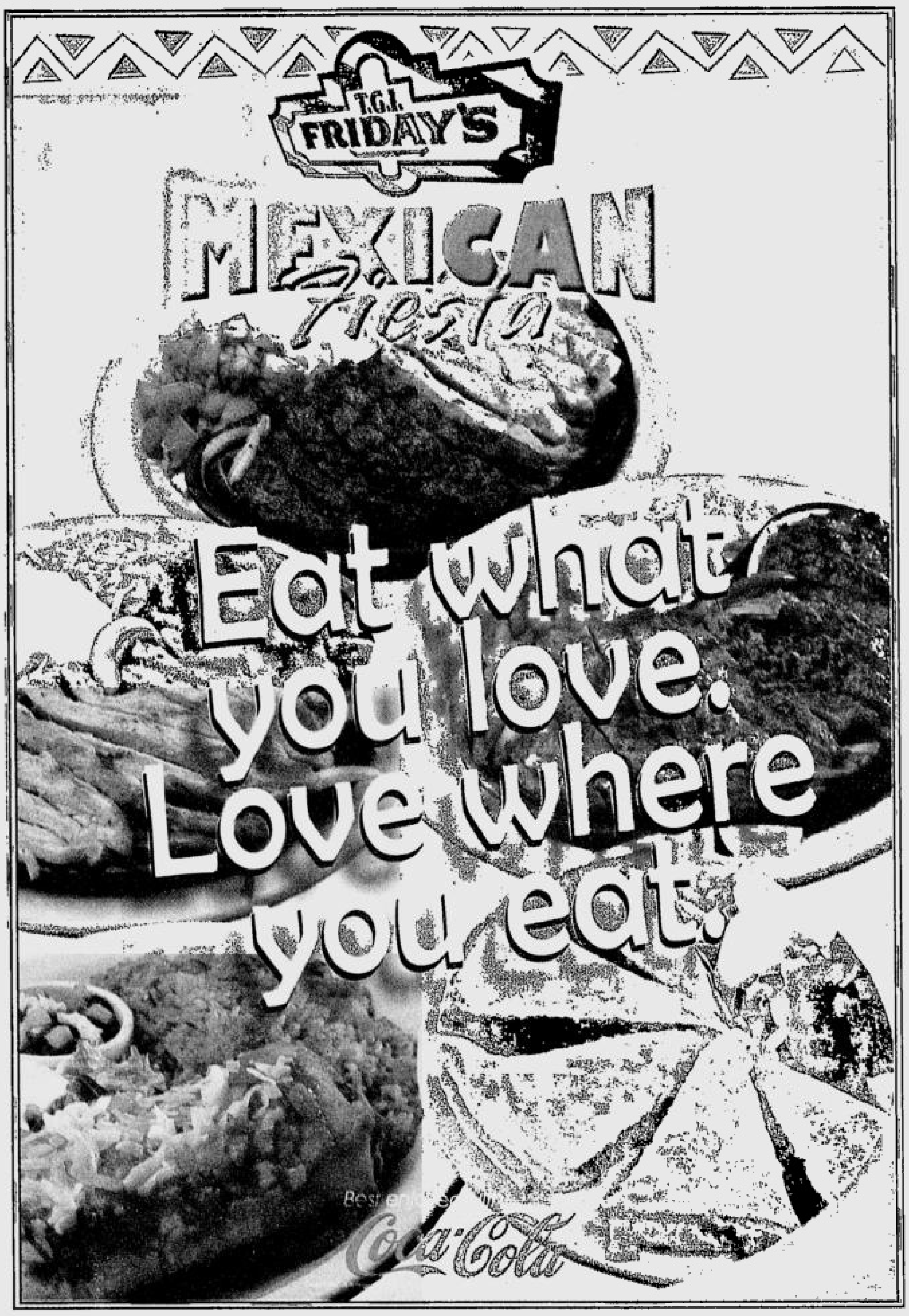

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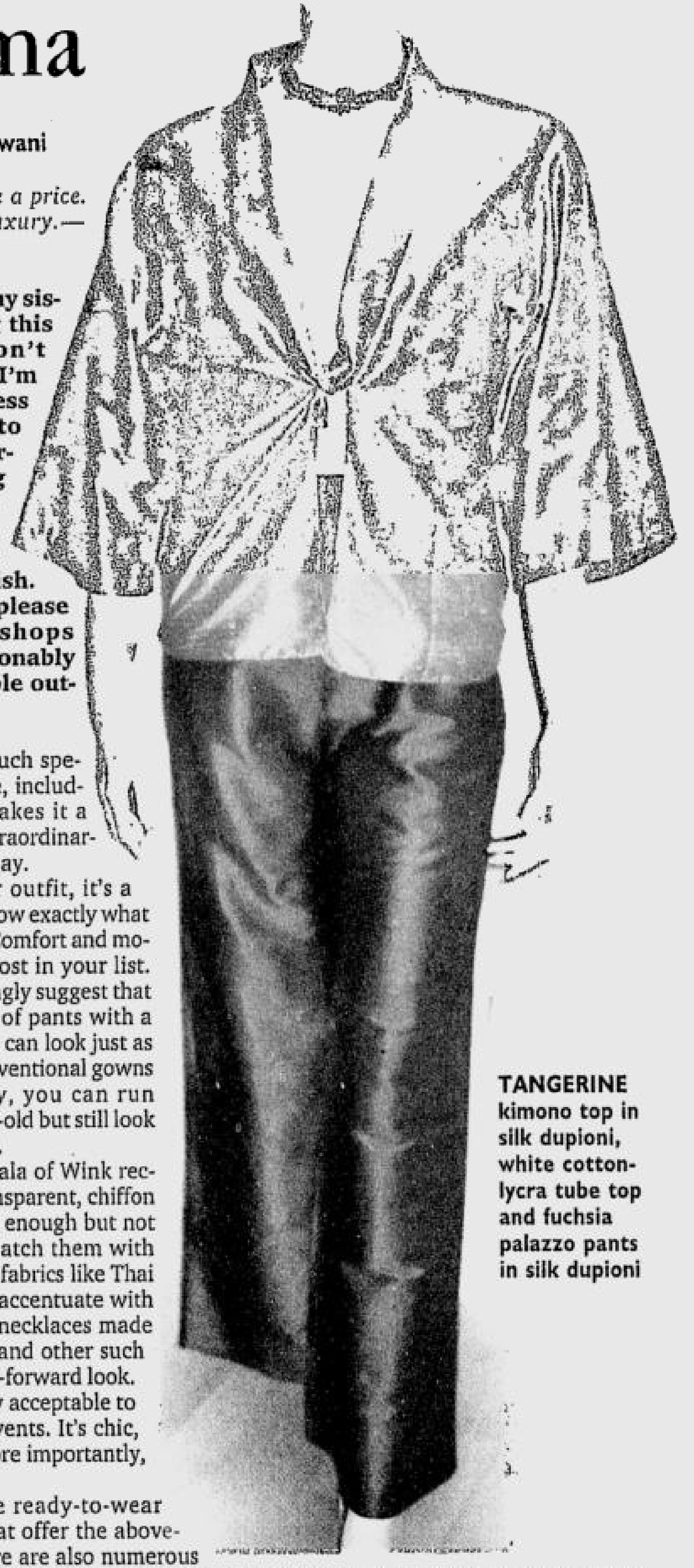
# FASHION ADVICE

# Comfy formals, creating illusions and Snow White's dilemma

By Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

*Luxury need not have a price. Comfort itself is a luxury.*—
**Geoffrey Beene**

**I WILL be attending my sister-in-law's wedding this December and I don't know what to wear. I'm not partial to sleeveless dresses and I have to take care of my 5-year-old daughter during the ceremony and reception. Please suggest clothes that are comfortable yet stylish. I'm in Pampanga so please mention specific shops where I can find reasonably priced but fashionable outfits.**



**TANGERINE** kimono top in silk dupioni, white cotton-lycra tube top and fuchsia palazzo pants in silk dupioni

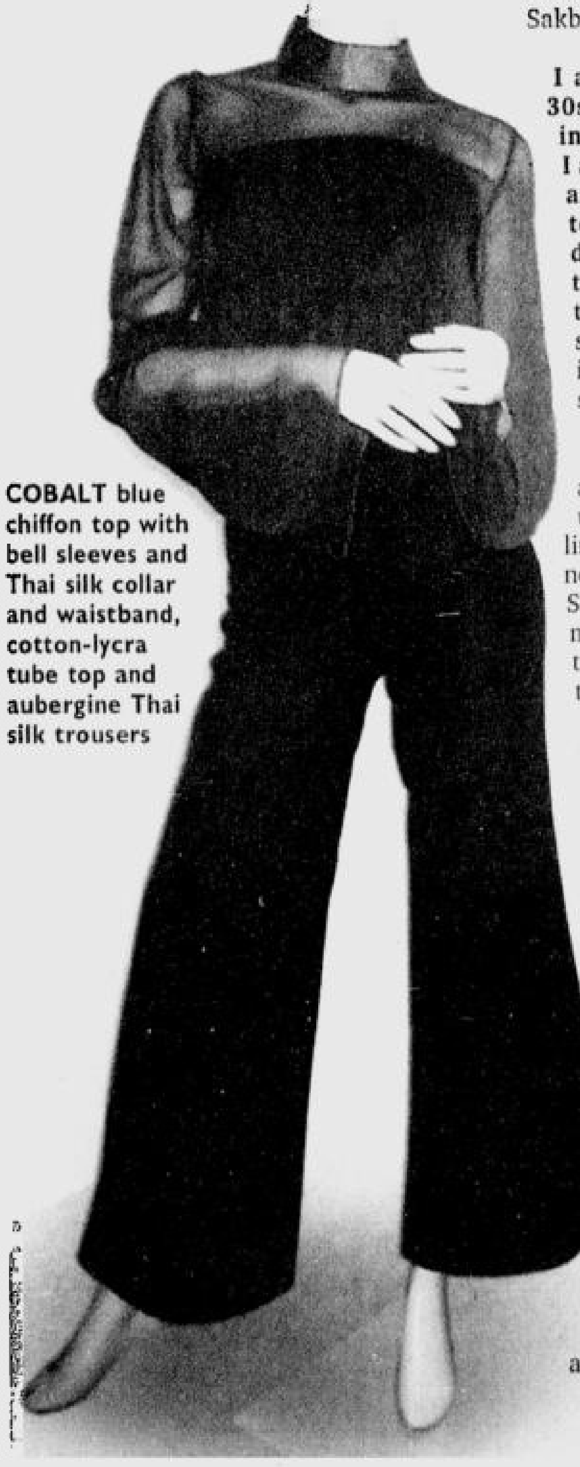
Weddings are truly such special occasions. Everyone, including guests like you, makes it a point to look and feel extraordinarily beautiful on the big day.

When choosing your outfit, it's a good starting point to know exactly what you require and prefer. Comfort and modesty seem to be foremost in your list. With this in mind, I strongly suggest that you wear a formal pair of pants with a long-sleeved blouse that can look just as stylish and formal as conventional gowns and dresses. This way, you can run around after your 5-year-old but still look as fashionable as can be.

Top designer Rhett Eala of Wink recommends the use of transparent, chiffon blouses that are modest enough but not the least bit frumpy. Match them with trousers made of dressy fabrics like Thai silk or silk dupioni and accentuate with stylized obis, ponchos, necklaces made of semiprecious stones and other such accessories for a fashion-forward look. Rhett says, "It's perfectly acceptable to wear pants to formal events. It's chic, modern, stylish and, more importantly, comfortable."

In Manila, there are ready-to-wear boutiques like Wink that offer the abovementioned outfits. There are also numerous designers like Randy Ortiz, Vic Barba and Jojie Lloren who can make ensembles to suit your needs. But since you are in Pampanga, Angeles-based supermodel Marina Benipayo suggests that you contact designers in the area to help you with your dilemma. Call Arthur Hipolito (tel. 322-7034) or Manny Ocampo (tel. 322-6416/6920), two of the more senior designers in Angeles. You can also contact Rommel Balajadia ([0917] 510-1807), a promising designer and Marina's personal favorite. Or call young but skillful Rolly Deang (887-7751, [0919] 419-3053) or Frederick Policarpio ([0917] 894-9827).

For accessories, like shoes and bags, you can shop at SM City Pampanga or Robinsons Starmills Pampanga. If you want something out of the ordinary, Marina suggests that you call Voltaire Zalamea ([0916] 825-1501), the owner of an accessory line called Sakbit.



**COBALT** blue chiffon top with bell sleeves and Thai silk collar and waistband, cotton-lycra tube top and aubergine Thai silk trousers

**I am a single, working woman in my 30s and I'm having a hard time choosing clothes that will suit my body type. I am petite with short legs and chubby arms. I have to lose about 20 pounds to reach my ideal weight. Aside from donning clothes with vertical patterns, what else can I wear to appear taller and slimmer? I usually wear slacks and blouses to informal meetings. I want to look smart but at the same time hip.**

You must disguise your figure flaws and improve your proportion with the use of color, texture and style. Vertical lines create the illusion of height and slimness as they draw your eyes up and down. So, wearing vertical patterns is a good move on your part. Here are other tips and tricks that can make you appear taller and thinner:

- Create an unbroken line by using tops and bottoms in monochromatic colors or one particular tone. Avoid contrasting colors, belts and horizontal stripes and lines that will cut you in half and widen your figure.
- Make sure your articles of clothing are not loose and baggy in style. Wear narrow jackets and pants that are close to the body.
- Scale everything down to your size. Since you are petite, wear smaller accessories that will complement and not overpower your body type.
- Always remember that dark colors are slimming while light colors create the illusion of added weight. Use dark colors for areas you would like to minimize and light colors for areas you wish to emphasize.
- Heavy fabrics like tweed, corduroy and heavy knits add bulk to your figure.

COMFY/ p.C7

# Comfy formals, creating illusions and Snow White's dilemma

From page C6

**BLACK** cotton-lycra off-shoulder top, silver Thai silk cigarette pants and striped hot pink obi belt

ALL CLOTHES AND NECKPIECES FROM WINK RHETT EALA, POWERPLANT MALL AND GLORIETTA 3

- Large patterns (especially in light pastels) add weight while small patterns in dark hues minimize size. But generally, solid colors will make you look longer.
- Soft fabrics like silk jersey and chiffon will cling and show figure flaws.

When attending your meetings, it's a good idea to dress in your basic trousers and polo or dressy knit tops. You can also wear knee-length sheath or shift dresses with sleeves or tops with pencil skirts. Just make sure you match these with high-heeled pumps or slingbacks that can elongate your appearance. Stylize your look with various accessories like neckpieces and bracelets. Trendy bags and shoes can also help jazz up your outfit.

**You wrote about clothes for *morenas* last week. What about colors for fair-skinned women like me? Do black and other dark colors flatter pale skin?**

It's relatively easier for women with fair skin to choose hues that suit their complexion. In fact, they often look neat and clean no matter what color they wear.

But as always, skin undertone determines what will bring out that certain radiance. If yellow undertones are best complemented by warm colors like beige, brown, cream and tan, pink undertones are well set off by cool tones like ice blue, pale pink and stark white. Incidentally, pink undertones are more common in mestizas and white-skinned westerners.

Most, if not all colors, will suit fair-skinned women. It is just a matter of choosing the right depth, grade or tone. To determine if a particular hue will flatter your complexion, place the color swatch near your face and check if it creates a glow or smoothens your skin.

Go ahead and wear dark colors like black and navy blue, as these will create a very interesting contrast and a dramatic appearance. Same goes with certain shades of red. Just make sure you use makeup to brighten up your face and to avoid looking pale and nondescript. Pale pinks, corals, peaches and nudes will look good on you while red lipstick and dark eyeliners will create drama and mystique. It ultimately depends on your personal style.

Commercial model and one of Manila's Five Loveliest, Melissa Fernandez-Abaya, a mestiza beauty, says she normally dons dark, warm or vivid colors like black, rust or burnt orange, red and other earth tones to avoid looking pale and washed out. She sticks to natural-looking makeup rather than dark makeup that does not flatter her features. And she colors her hair in soft, ashy browns that complement her skin tone. "My beauty guru and hairstylist Henri Calayag refuses to color my hair pitch black because it will sharpen my already strong features," she adds.

Hair color does play an important part in bringing out your best features and flawless complexion. Some fair-skinned women like Lucy Torres and Lara Flynn Boyle seem to favor the intense contrast of ebony hair and alabaster skin. Other women like Charlene Gonzales-Muhlach, Debra Messing and Melissa probably prefer the softer look of brown hair and fair skin. Again, it's a matter of personal preference and style. Whatever you decide, do consult a professional colorist to avoid any ghastly mistakes.

*E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com*

**FAIR-SKINNED** beauty Melissa Fernandez-Abaya uses dark, warm or vivid colors to avoid looking pale and washed out.

## *Italian boutique opens new branch*

THE NEWLY opened Prima Linea shop at Greenbelt 3 seeks to satisfy every sartorial need.

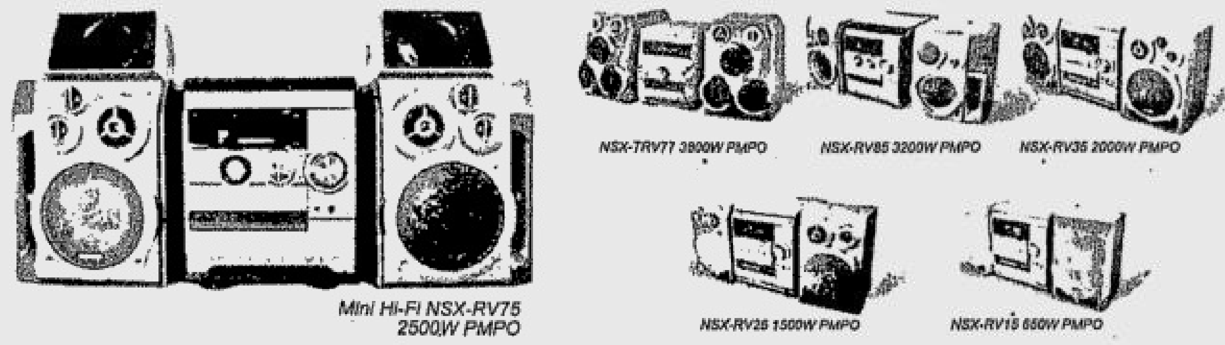
Going corporate? Check out the business suits for both men and women from such brands Gianfranco Ferre and Blues Club. Need a trendy alternative to that staid office wear? Try the new labels Zooi and Virus.

There are also the old reliables such as Versace Jeans Couture, Versace Classic, Castellani, Antonio Derrico, Online, Altra Moda, iblues, Marina Rinaldi, Compagnia Italia and Ferrone.

Cutting-edge shoes on the shelves include Versace, Ripa, EM, iblues, Chorus.

The shop is the latest from the Linea Italia Group. It is a two-story structure with clean salmon and cream-colored walls. It takes its inspiration from an old church in New York: iron railings line the stairs leading to the second level, while a lofty domed ceiling hovers above.

Pump Up the Volume



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KATE Spade ad campaign for Fall 2002

# Accessories company expands throughout Asia

KATE Spade, LLC, the American accessories designer, announced its expansion throughout Asia. The company will open the first freestanding boutique in Hong Kong this month, then Korea and Taiwan in 2003 and the People's Republic of China and Singapore in 2004, through an exclusive distribution agreement with Globalluxe.

Stores Specialists Inc. (SSI) will distribute Kate Spade in the Philippines through an exclusive distribution agreement. SSI will open the first freestanding Kate Spade boutique in the Philippines this month. Three more boutiques and shop-in-shops in Manila will open in the next three years.

On the other hand, the agreement with Globalluxe calls for a total of 16 freestanding boutiques and shop-in-shops within the next three years.

At present, Kate Spade has four freestanding boutiques and 15 shop-in-shops in Japan through a distribution agreement with Sanei International Co., Ltd. An additional freestanding boutique and shop-in-shop will open in Tokyo in Spring 2003.

Kate Spade decided to expand in Asia because the region offered one of the fastest growing consumer markets in the world. Embarking on its international expansion program in 1997, the company's international business has grown to over 15 percent of its overall business, registering double-digit growth over the past three years.

Kate Spade, a former Mademoiselle accessories editor, founded her handbag company with her husband, Andy Spade, in 1993. With the help of their two partners, Pamela Bell and Elyce Arons, their idea has evolved into a luxury brand of modern, classic accessories. In 1996, the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA) gave the company's classic designs America's New Fashion Talent in Accessories award. This was followed in 1998 by the CFDA Best Accessory Designer of the Year award.

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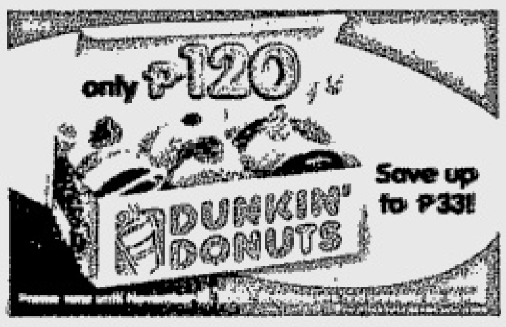

# 'How will you spend eternity?'

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

LAST week, **Alya Honasan** and I attended a wake where Buddhist rituals alternated with Christian rites. It was a first for us and, as it turned out, a learning experience as well for **Cherry Pineda**, our Guide magazine editor we were condoling with. Cherry lost her mother **Cristina**, a vivacious Chinese-Filipino woman whose social and cultural ties were anchored on both religions.

## LIFE-STYLED

*Thelma Sioson San Juan*

The funeral chapel was decked with colorful banners bearing the names of her closest of kin, in Chinese characters. If not for the combined smell of incense and candles, we'd have found the mood festive. Alya and I glanced at the table laden with food offerings before the coffin—to serve the departed. In our case, dinner buffet would have to wait.

The Christian friends of Cherry's mom sang a hymn in English and Mandarin—simultaneously. The ensuing twin sounds were a novelty to our ears. The refrain tripped my mind: "How will you spend eternity?"

Never thought of that. If we didn't consider our Catholic faith (which we could never do, of course), that question sounded merely practical, as casual as how will you spend the long weekend?

To us Catholics, the answer comes by rote—eternal life with Christ, which is what the All Souls' Feast is about.

> We have an edge over vampires: We die

But really, how will you spend eternity? As I write this, our magazine's managing editor can't even make up his mind how he'll spend the cocktail hour.

HOW/ p.D2

Real People. True Stories.

"Teenager? You must mean my daughters! With Imedeen, my skin's smooth even without make-up."

Joanna Valencia-de Jesus,
33, AVP for Finance, interior design student,
mother of two

Joanna de Jesus has the fresh face of a college girl -- plus a successful career and not one but two teenaged daughters! Yet you'd never guess it from her skin: "People can't believe I'm 33!" Thanks to Imedeen, Joanna's not only maintained her young skin -- she's even *improved* it: "I wasn't born with perfect skin. I had sunspots and tiny veins, but they're almost gone; now I don't even need foundation!" Only Imedeen nourishes skin from deep within -- for a smooth, firm, defiantly youthful complexion *without* time consuming rituals. So when her daughters' friends or her own classmates are amazed at her age, Joanna just smiles and says "Believe it -- and believe Imedeen." Imedeen. The Skin Care Tablet.

Ultrasound images of the skin structure: First photo shows photodamaged dermis; second photo shows denser structure which implies better support and ability to hold moisture.

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***1) Nov. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 / 8:30 am - 5 pm - MASTER COURSE IN CAKE DECORATING - P7,500.*** Learn the practical & easy method of making icing flowers, borders, scrolls & strings, cake designing, sugar molding, color flow, color technique, wedding cake assembly. ***Dec. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6***

***2) Nov. 8 - P7,500*** - Learn to make your own doll mold.

***3) Nov. 9 - NEW CAKES, PASTRIES AND COOKIES - P2,500.*** Cooked Carrot Cake, Banana Cake, Peanut Butter Cookies, Coconut Cookies, Choco-Chip Cookies, Chocolate Nut Cookies, Hopia, Siopao.

***4) Nov. 11, 12, 13, 14 / 8:30 am - 5pm - ADVANCED GUMPASTE & FOREIGN METHOD CAKE DECORATING - P7,500.*** New method of gumpaste, flowers, objects, marzipan, quilting, swags & ribbons, ribbon insertion, finest string works, lace pieces, fondant, chocolate fondant.

***5) Nov. 16 - LEARN SUGAR-FREE CAKES AND BREADS - P4,000.*** Banana Cake, Apple Almond Cake, Chocolate Walnut Cookies, Carrot Cake, All Wheat Bread & Raisin Bread. ***Next schedule: Dec. 14***

***6) Nov. 18, 19, 20, 21 / 8:30 am - 5:00 pm - COLD PORCELAIN FLOWER COURSES WITH RECIPE - P3,500 each.*** 1) Sampaguita, Sunflower, Waling-Waling 2) Rose, Catlleya, Cymbidium 3) Magnolia, Gerbera, Lilies. 4) Open Rose, Hydrangea, Grapes

***7) Nov. 18, 19, 20, 21 / 8 am - 5 pm - BASIC COMMERCIAL BAKING - P9,500.*** 30 recipes of the basic cakes, breads, pies, pastries and cookies.

***8) Nov. 19, 20, 21, 22 / 8am - 5pm - COLD PORCELAIN DOLL 4-Day Course - P10,500.*** Make everlasting dolls using the latest technique in Cold Porcelain.

***9) Nov. 16 & 23 - Whole Day/Two Saturdays Lesson - COLD PORCELAIN MANNEQUINS - P10,500.*** Learn our latest technique in making large dolls.

***10) Nov. 20 / 8am - 5pm - NEW METHOD ON FONDANT USING LACE MATS, NEW ROLLING PIN, SWAGS & RIBBONS - P3,000. Next schedule: Dec. 18***

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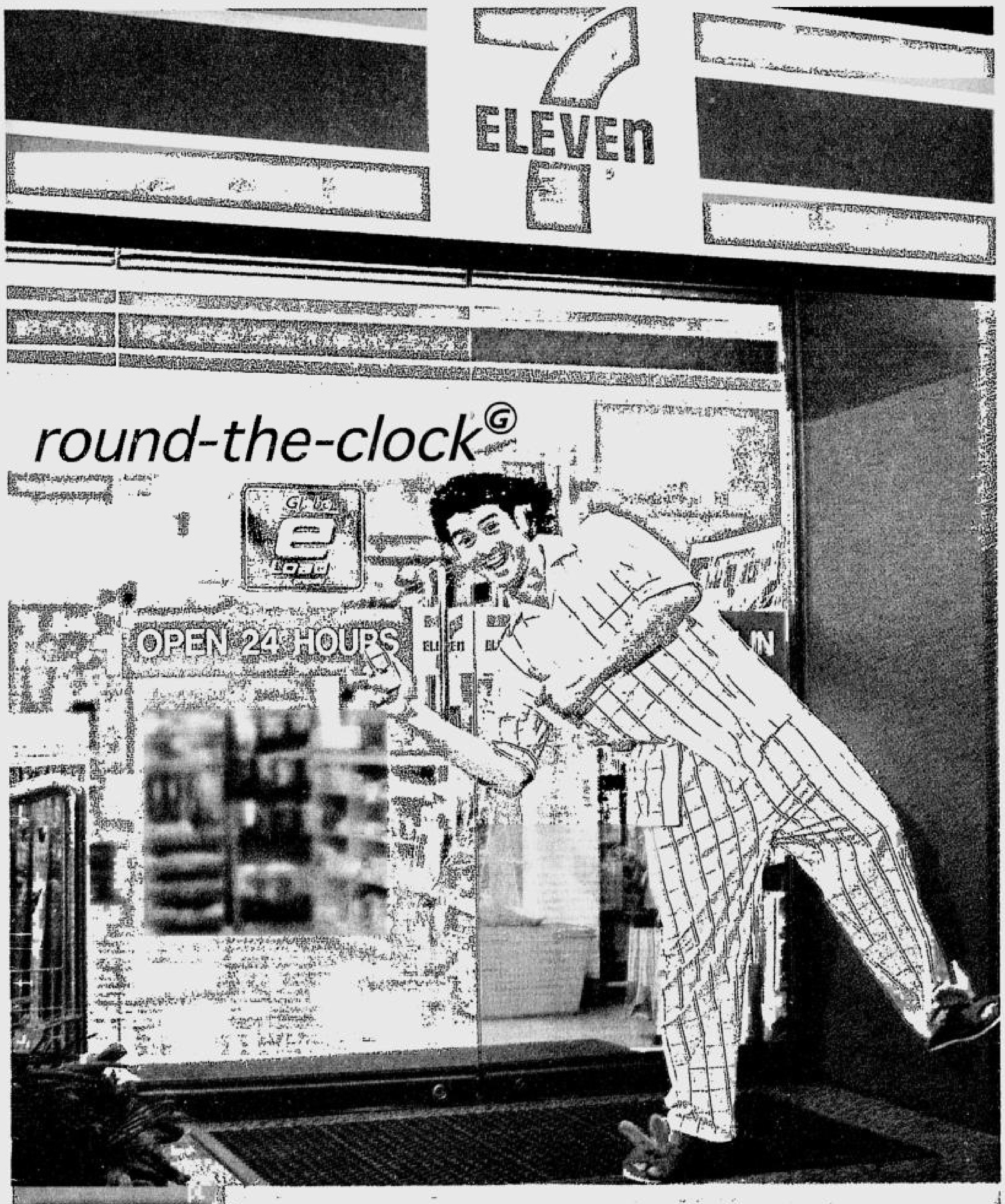

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# 'How will you spend eternity?'

From page D1

It's like asking what your schedule is after you die. I remember a friend telling me that he doesn't mind dying provided his "body doesn't go first before I die." How's that again? I presume what he meant was, it's all right to die provided he didn't lose all his faculties and control systems before he knew he's dead—for sure.

## Lonely immortals

Years ago, I went through what I called my "vampire phase," when I got so engrossed in Anne Rice's series, following the saga of her vampires one novel after another. What struck me was how lonely those creatures were, doomed as they were to immortality. Never able to die, they lived thousands of years, even as those around them, including their loved ones, ceased to exist, so that they were forced to "vampirize" someone whom they wanted to be with forever—for companionship through all eternity. (Obviously, this was long before unhappy marriages and alimonies were invented.)

That convinced me how much better off we were than these preternatural creatures. We have one advantage: We die.

Merely passing through. That's what we do, not by choice most of the time. We're merely passing through. The people who come into our lives are just passing through. Last week I tried to tell my teenager this when the neighbor he grew up with and who was his best friend was moving house, and he realized they could no longer share as much time and fun as they used to.

At the end of the day, the people we've come to love are never for us to have and to hold, for they are just passing through. Life is a continuum of stopovers. Sad but true. Yet such stopovers become happy if they leave us memories, no matter that a great part of them is pain.

That's why I'm impressed with friends like **Susan Reyes**, still one of the enduring beauties around, who have chosen, as their mission, helping people go through death. That's a challenging and perplexing expertise, if I ever saw one.

## Helping the dying

Since three years ago, after she helped a dying loved one, she has realized that the dying, like the living, must retain the quality of life until the end. This means that if death is inevitable, one must go through it, not only with as much comfort as realities would allow, but also with the love and warmth of his loved ones, with the security of his age-old routine (if not function), in the familiarity of his home, and with human dignity.

SUSAN Reyes

Susan and others like her believe that to die in a hospital, strapped to tubes, is suffering that is utmost yet preventable. That's why they are for hospice care, which gives the option of dying in one's home. This is, of course, in cases which have been pronounced terminal by medical science.

"Caring for the dying is not easy yet it's not that different from caring for the living, as people think," she said.

A dying patient goes through pain, yet pain can be managed. "It's said that 97 percent of cancer-induced pain can be managed," she said. Pain management is part of hospice care.

What's important, she said, was that the dying was not left to loneliness and a consuming feeling of loss of control over his own life.

Six months ago, she and friends **Tessie Escaler** and **Annette Sumulong** put up Home Inc., with Dr. **Josefina Magno**, who is the recognized founder of hospice care in the United States. Still dynamic at 80, Dr. Magno is president emeritus of the International Association of Hospice and Palliative Care, which is based in the US. She shuttles between Manila and the US.

This group believes that genuine hospice care is brought to the home. Among their recent patients was a 45-year-old mother who was dying of cancer. When the hospital doctors diagnosed her case as terminal, she chose to go home and spend her last five weeks with her children who were barely in their teens. There, she was visited by Home Inc.'s team of doctors and nurses. More important, she continued to look after her family until her final days when she lost consciousness.

"Until the end, she continued to feel useful to her family, even doing the budget and planning the menu," Susan said.

Home Inc. retains a team of pain management experts, oncologists, nurses and counselors.

The hospice venture doesn't have many patients yet, just one or two at a time. What might interest the reader is that its fees are not prohibitive, just enough to support its team of experts. "You'll be surprised it's cheaper than the most expensive brand of shoes," she said.

What Susan and her friends aim for in the long run, is to set up a foundation that will bring hospice care even to the indigents.

For now, what they're focusing on is to make the people aware that the dying can choose how and where to spend the homestretch, other than the hospital; and that the family of the dying doesn't have to feel helpless and harassed, and that they can avail of professional help. The quality of death is as important as the quality of life. To be specific about it, the quality of goodbye matters.

## Angels and death

I know this has a good following—angel talk. The Center for Health and Creative Arts (Chacra) holds a discussion on "Angels and Death" on Nov. 20, 6-8 p.m., with angel counselor **Nonoy Ozaeta** as facilitator. (For details, call 434-5381.) There's also an Angel Awareness Workshop on Nov. 16 at Chacra.

***

**Rex Navarrete** really has a way of drawing crowds. His shows at Dish last weekend were so packed that it was a good thing **EJ Litton** and **Philip Cu-Unjieng** thought of arranging the seats theater-style. It was a power crowd that cut across generations—**Bea Zobel, Meldy Cojuangco**, former Sen. **Ting Paterno, Mickey** and **Lizette Cojuangco, Noel** and **Liaa Bautista, Rina Go**; **Leica Carpo, Malu Gamboa, Rajo Laurel** had a party of 50. This time, the show of the California-based standup comedian was produced, with Rockwell, by his longtime friend **Joey Reyes.**

Joey and Rex grew up together in California, attending the same school where Joey would help Rex survive the class bullies. The segments and spiels in Rex's act were really inspired by characters they grew up with, and situations. Rex will be back end of November to do two shows for Metro magazine, also at Dish—his last for the year. Watch out for his "Lord of the Rings."

Before the show, we spotted Ms Zobel, Ms Cojuangco and their friends having an early dinner at Rastro where, as usual, chef **Ed Quimson** whipped up their favorites. By the way, it is **Joseph Tan** (not Andrew, as we wrongly named him two weeks ago) who's the partner of **Patty del Rosario** and Ed in this Spanish resto. Joseph is a University of San Francisco graduate, a lawyer actually, who's enjoying a way-off-his-career venture now.

* * *

The art collection of **Wili** and **Doreen Fernandez** has just been donated to the Ateneo Art Gallery. It will be displayed in a show, "In Good Taste: The Wili and Doreen Fernandez Gift of Modern Philippine Art"—a title inspired by Doreen's column in INQUIRER. It opens on Nov. 26, the couple's wedding anniversary. According to the Gallery curator, **Richie Lerma**, Doreen had, in fact, set this date when Richie spoke to her on the phone a month before she died.

The gallery has unsigned portraits of Wili and Doreen and needs the public's help to identify the painters. Neither the family nor colleagues from other museums know. Richie said the likeness of a young Doreen in mocha tones was particularly astonishing, stylishly coiffed and dressed.

*E-mail the author at tsanjuan@skyinet.net*

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# Lawyers to sue if vehicle emissions testing is deferred

**SEEING GREEN**

*Doris Gaskell Nuyda*

ON OCT. 23, a group of lawyers headed by environmental counsel Antonio Oposa, met at the Integrated Bar of the Philippines to sign up as volunteers to push implementation of the Clean Air Law.

The lawyers, together with representatives of over 2,000 nongovernment organizations under the Concerned Citizens Against Pollution (Cocap) umbrella, asked the Department of Transportation and Communication and the Land Transportation Office to act, within 30 days, against the 10 top public utility companies (mostly bus operators) whose vehicles were identified as smoke belchers by Bantay Usok monitors. Otherwise, a class suit will be filed against offending firms.

The lawyers' move comes in the wake of the DOTC's postponement of emission testing for vehicles. Reactions to the deferment were unanimous: it is unconstitutional. "Imagine enacting a law and then outlawing it," remarked Antonio M. Claparols of the Ecology Society of the Philippines. "'When anti-smoke belching NGOs handled this (emission testing) some time ago," he added, "we apprehended 30,000 vehicles and collected over P17 million (in penalties) that went to the national government."

But then, the implementing Task Force was abolished and the job was given to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-National Capital Region office where it died a natural death. There are 1,200 civil, administrative and criminal cases that will remain unresolved until the law is implemented.

If no action is taken after the 30-day limit (on Nov. 26), the class suit will be filed. The suit signifies the general disenchantment of citizens over the lack of political will (or other worse reasons) of the implementing agencies to do their mandates. The deferment of the air-emission program by the DOTC is "manifest partiality in favor of a private party to the detriment of the breathing public, an act which is tantamount to graft and corruption," according to the lawyers. There are those who say such legal suits do not prosper in our country. But the lawyers involved have a good track record in environmental cases such as this. Just the same, let us pray that this one does prosper—if only for the sake of our health, especially that of our children's.

## 'Adopt' a public school

The "revolutionary" movement that urges people to "adopt" a public school is gathering momentum, with more and more parties pledging their support. The Foundation for World Wide People Power (FWWPP), which spearheads this educational movement, now needs volunteers to help with the different tasks ahead. The adopt-a-school concept aims to bring private school standards to public schools that badly need funds and facilities to provide the best education to the less-fortunate sectors of society. The idea is to get this country on its feet through high standards of education for all its youth.

If you wish to be a volunteer or make inquiries on details of the movement, contact the FWWPP at 101 Cedar Mansions II, J. Escriva Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City, or call 633-2185, fax 633-2820, or e-mail fwwpp@glinesnx.com.ph

## Junk shops, etc.

J.P. would like to know how to contact junk shops on Commonwealth Avenue, QC, and where to find biodegradable beauty products and cleaning materials.

Narda Camacho of Linis Ganda, which networks with junk dealers all over Metro Manila, answers the first: look up Ricky Chua (tel. 935-7252) or Lumen Teves (tel. 430-6274). Both are based on Commonwealth Avenue.

For the biodegradable soaps and cleaners, contact Aleli V. Pansacolan, head of Daila Herbal Products, at daila@skyinet.net. As a matter of fact, she will contact you at your website.

## Partner for agri-fishery

Wilfrido C. Tui, college administrator II at the Surigao del Norte College of Agriculture and Technology (SNAT), says his college is looking for environment-minded private companies to work with in enhancing marine and forest resources in its area of coverage. SNAT, he says, is the only agri-fishery college in Surigao. It is under the aegis of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.

"At present," he writes, "we have 57.219 hectares of mangrove and 400 has. of second growth forests as laboratory for agri-forestry and fishery students." But the school is badly in need of facilities.

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# Tipar III to be held Nov. 8

ALUMNI of 14 Metro Manila schools—flower hildren of the '60s and the discophiles of the '70s—will get together for Tipar III on Nov. 8 the Makati Sports Club on LP Leviste Street, Salcedo Village.

The party will feature themes from those decades—the songs, dances, fashion, lingo and personalities.

Among the alumni who will dance to the music of Route 70 and Men of Blue Blood are the popular Diaz sisters, Gloria and Aurora; the Alberts, Yeyet and Martha; Lynne Sotto, Jeanne Young, Ronnie Henares, Gemma Suzara, Bobby de Castro, Berg Villapando and Nora Jacinto.

Tickets, at P500 (which includes dinner, dancing, raffle and the show), are available from Al Mayoralgo (tel. 817-1371; [0917] 520-5318), Bob Cabral (634-0142; [0919] 819-6792), Chito Mutuc (817-8823; [0917] 840-8969), Butch Araneta (843-7679; [0919] 684-3979), EddyBoy Villacorta ([0917] 989-0200), Ricky Lao (892-3289; [0917] 891-6260). Members of the Route 70 band will also have tickets for sale when they play at the Hotel Inter-Continental.

Alumni of Ateneo, De La Salle University, St. Paul's College, St. Theresa's College, Maryknoll (now Miriam) College, University of the Philippines, San Beda University, Lourdes School, International School, San Juan de Letran University, University of Santo Tomas, Assumption Convent, Teresiana's College and St. Scholastica's College are invited.

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EXHIBIT of Mindanao Orchid Society and Floriculture Industry of Davao

# Garden lovers get a taste . . .

From page D4

emony alone was grand and, no doubt, will be memorable to majority of the participants. It was an impressive production with a high-tech video presentation of keynote speakers and a dramatic black theater number about nature and paradise. Kitchie Benedicto produced the show. Need we say more?

Visits to the private gardens of the Negrenses, known for splurging on rare and exotic plants, may not have been on the agenda, but then, who could have stopped the convention participants from playing hooky? Some went to Boracay after the convention while others took the ferryboat to Iloilo and drove to Capiz for fresh seafood. Several stayed for the weekend to join the Masskara festival. Many simply used the time away from the convention to buy souvenirs at the ANP Negros Showroom.

## Light moments

The conference at the Bacolod Convention Plaza had exciting moments in spite of the more serious programs in the agenda like election of the board of directors and brainstorming on the problems of the horticulture industry. There were presentations on how to propagate garden plants for business. Fred Salud, one of the presentors, discussed how to propagate the Euphorbia. Baby Spowart discussed the reasons the Philippine plant export industry failed.

What brought the house down was a triple treat—demonstrations of massive flower arrangements by Rachy Cuna Cup winner Nonito Gallo, local florist Beng Villanueva and Ponchit Ponce Enrile. While Villanueva dolled up a gazebo for a wedding, Enrile and Gallo whipped up massive floral displays.

Nontraditional cut foliage materials were used generously such as the local *kopkop* and *bolobituon*. The more familiar ones included rhapis, asparagus, *anahaw*, croton, *pandan*, red cane grass, *kamuning*, *seloum*, Malabar chestnut, umbrella plant, ficus and many more.

GUESTS get a taste of the dragon fruit in front of a night-blooming cactus vine.

MR. and Ms Kenneth Sencio with their dragon fruits

The floriculture convention would not have been complete without the garden show and plant *tiangge* at the side bar. In contrast to the flamboyant display of floral colors and impressive accessories at the landscaped exhibit of the federation members, a local club presented a simple garden sanctuary with meditation and healing corners.

While raucous music blared from the *tiangge*, the club members played the soothing strains of Dan Gibson's "Solitudes—Exploring Nature With Music."

Obviously, the crowd drawer was the garden *tiangge*. Buyers flocked to the stalls of nurseries from different parts of the country everyday. We recognized King Louis of Baguio, Puentespina and Leuenberger of Davao City, Purificacion of Manila and the Cojuangco horticulture farm of Negros Occidental.

Like the other convention participants, our exciting finds at the market included some local begonias, dragon fruits, tillandsias, and native plants and trees with good potentials for florists' cut foliage needs. But packing them in cartons and getting airport permits to transport the plants to Manila were a hassle. Perhaps the hosts of the next floriculture convention will try to make this exercise easier for their guests.

*E-mail author at mgiron@i-manila.com.ph*

## Potted mums, orchids for All Saints' Day

PURIFICACION Orchids and Ornamentals Inc., which has outlets in Manila Seedling Bank Compound on Quezon Avenue corner Edsa, QC; SM City North Edsa; SM City Fairview, QC; SM Megamall, Edsa, Mandaluyong; SM Sucat in Parañaque; and SM Superstore in San Fernando, Pampanga, offers potted flowering plants as alternatives to cut flowers.

These plants last longer than the fresh cut flower; moreover, the buyer does not have to arrange the flowers because the plants in full bloom already look like bouquets or floral arrangements. And these are priced reasonably, too. In fact, all outlets offer discounts until Nov. 3.

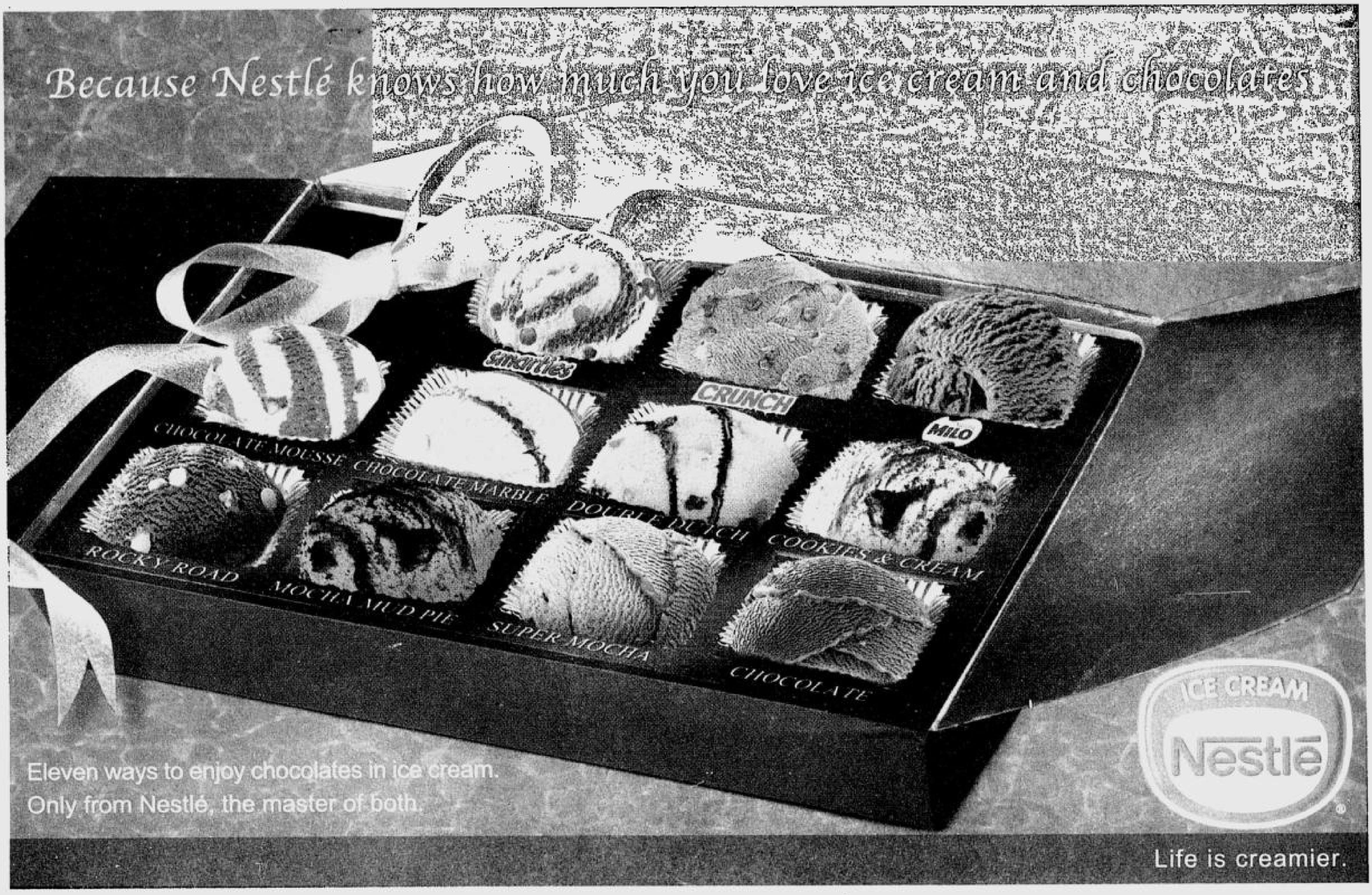
Also available are traditional cut flowers, which can be arranged on the spot by expert house florists. Unique and nontraditional potted flowering plants like *vincas*, petunias, *kalanchoe*, etc. are now also being used and readily available in all sizes and colors. Call 928-4831.

## Lectures on home and garden design

DISENYO 2002, a home and garden design trade show with lecture-demonstrations on the different aspects of the latest trends in designing home and gardens, will be held Nov. 14-17 at the World Trade Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

One of the topics to be discussed is mobile plant arts that are appropriate for indoors, especially recommended for homeowners living in apartments, condominiums and townhouses. Plant art expert Serapion S. Metilla will show how to make tray landscaping with various ornamental plants on volcanic rocks in a natural rustic setting on Nov. 17, 3 p.m.

Call 726-8664/4128 to 30.



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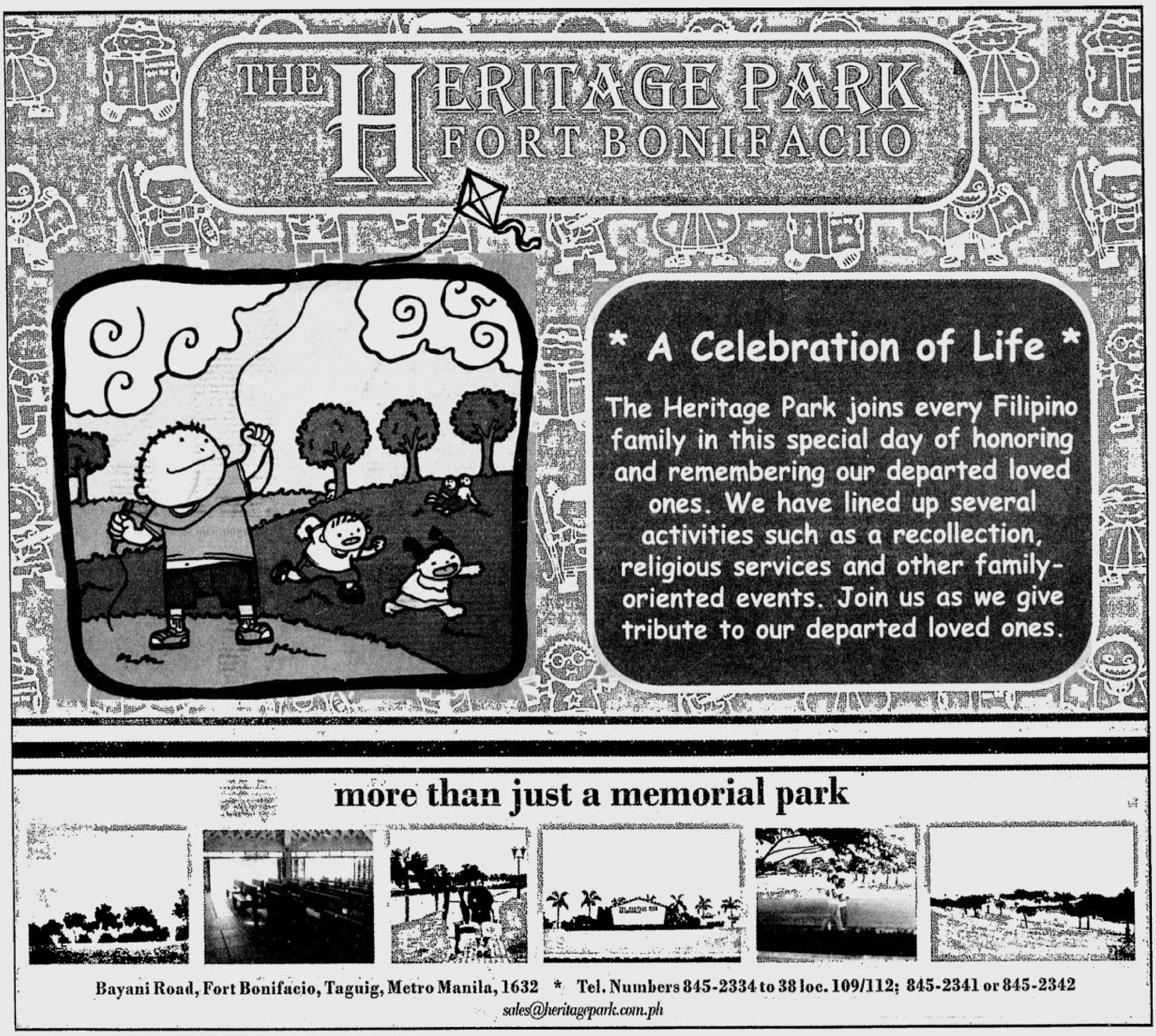
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# Garden lovers get a taste of renowned Bacolod hospitality

**By Tita V. Giron**

IT'S a once-a-year convention of gardeners and plant traders where socials, garden show and plant tours are the usual main attraction. This year, participants in the national floriculture convention held in Bacolod, Negros Occidental, got more than they expected.

For one, they had a chance to see the famous gardens, orchards, and commercial production areas of Gretchen O. Cojuangco. They also got a taste of the much-talked about Gretchen lunch with a salad of organically grown vegetables and dishes without *vetsin*.

Longtime gardeners had a pleasant reunion with Julie Benedicto, founding president of the Federation of Garden Clubs in the Philippines. Once active in garden club activities all over the country, she is now growing African violets during breaks in her less hectic schedule.

"It goes without saying that when it comes to hosting events and entertaining visitors, the folks of Negros Occidental are hard to equal. The opening cer-

GARDEN/ p.D2

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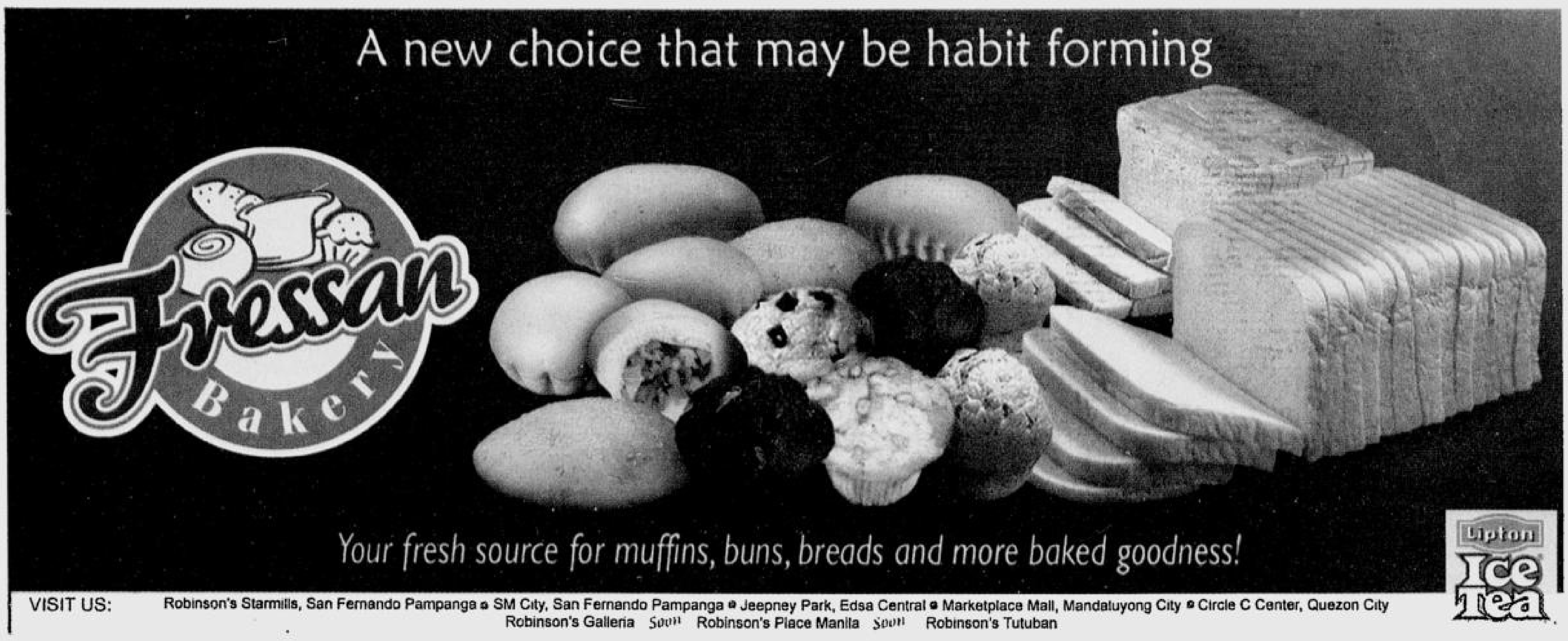
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